

CHARACTERS  
HISTORICAL and PANEGYRICAL  
OF THE  
GREATEST MEN  
That have appear'd in  
*F R A N C E,*  
During the Last  
CENTURY.

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By Monsieur PERRAULT of the  
*French Academy.*

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Now Render'd into *English*, by J. O.

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VOL. II.

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LONDON:

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# CHARACTERS

HISTORICAL AND ANECDOTAL

OF THE

# GREATEST MEN

IN ALL AGES

BY RAY

DURING ONE HUNDRED

CENTURIES



BY MONTGOMERY FELIX GALT OF THE

BRITISH ACADEMY

Now Reduced into English by G.O.

VOL II

LONDON:

PUBLISHED FOR A. MILLAR, THOMAS TELLER, THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS,  
(AND IN LONDON,) 1785.

TO THE  
RIGHT HONOURABLE  
*Robert Harley, Esq;*

ONE OF  
Her MAJESTY's Principal Secretaries  
of State, Speaker of the House  
of Commons, &c.

THIS  
Second VOLUME

OF

*Perrault's CHARACTERS,*

Is most humbly submitted, by,

SIR,

*Your most Obedient*

*and Respectful Servant,*

*November the  
29th. 1704.*

*John Ozell.*

THE  
LITERARY

COLLECTION  
OF  
GRANVILLE-BELFONTE,  
OF GRANVILLE BELFONTE,  
OF GRANVILLE BELFONTE,  
OF GRANVILLE BELFONTE,

THE  
LITERARY

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BY  
GRANVILLE BELFONTE,

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BY  
GRANVILLE BELFONTE,

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TO THE  
Second VOLUME.

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The Reader is desir'd to excuse and correct (among other Faults of the Press) the following Inadvertencies, &c.

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Page 4. Line 26. read *be* for *be*. p. 6. l. 10. r. *Dioceſſe* for *Diſoceſe*. p. 13. l. 5. r. *is* for *are*. p. 33. l. 15. r. *were ſpread* for *ſpread it ſelf*. p. 120. l. 2. r. *in himſelf* for *to himſelf*. l. 5. r. *to him* for *in him*. p. 132. l. 3. r. *by* for *hy*. l. 4. r. *contain* for *contain'd*. p. 160. l. 7. r. *than* for *thou*. p. 176. l. 8. r. *pleaſes* for *pleas'd*. p. 178. l. 7. r. *not to be* for *not be*.

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p. 6. l. 1. of the Dedication, r. *Parliaments* for *Seffions*: p. 5. l. 23. of Preface, r. *may* for *might*. p. 9. l. 20. r. *Father Berulle* for *Father of Berulle*. p. 108. l. ult. r. *Fabriciorum* for *Fibricorum*. p. 160. l. 20. r. *of* for *or*. l. 25. r. *not be found* for *not found*. p. 173. l. 35. r. *to make* for *and make*: p. 188. l. 9. r. *him* for *them*.

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# Illustrious M E N O F F R A N C E, During the Last C E N T U R Y.

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V O L. II.

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JAMES DAVI  
du PERRON,  
Cardinal.

THE Public having seen with satisfaction the Cardinal de Richelieu at the head of the illustrious Men of this Age, (in the first Volume we have given of 'em) 'tis believ'd they will not be displeas'd to see Cardinal Perron possess the same place

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place in this second Volume. They are two Personages of most transcendent Merit, and will be for ever memorable for the Services they have render'd to their Prince, to their Country, and to Religion.

*James Davi du Perron*, was descended from the noble Houses of *Perron Creteville* and *Languerville*, in *Lower Normandy*. He was born the 25th of *November 1556*. of Calvinist Parents, who (not to be disturbed in the exercise of their Religion) retir'd to *Geneva*, and afterwards settled themselves in the Territory of *Bearn*: His Father (a Gentleman of abundance of Wit and Learning) taught him *Latin* himself, and *Mathematicks* till he was ten Years of Age. The young *Perron* learn'd afterwards *alone and of himself* the *Greek Tongue* and *Philosophy*, having begun this double Study at the same time with *Aristotle's Logic*. Thence he pass'd to the *Orators* and *Poets*, which he made very familiar to himself, the reading whereof marvellously enlarg'd the extraordinary Talents he had for Eloquence, and for Poetry. Afterwards he fell to the study of *Hebrew*, which he learn'd of himself, even to read it currently *without Points*. There being a *Peace* made in *France*, he return'd thither with his Parents. His Merit gain'd him presently the Friendship of *Philip Desportes*, Abbot of *Tyron*, an excellent Poet, who made him known at Court, and also to the King. About this time *Perron* having read with care the *Summary of St. Thomas*, the Fathers of the Church, and particularly *St. Austin*, and thereby discovering the Errors of the Religion he profess'd, he presently abjur'd it, and some time after embrac'd the Ecclesiastical State.

State. These two Steps brought upon him a great deal of Reproach from the part of the Calvinists; but in all the Conferences he had with 'em, he always confounded 'em, and wrote against 'em several Works which acquir'd him a great Reputation. He had a superiority of Genius, which join'd to the goodness of the Cause he defended, render'd him always victorious. The King chose him to make the Funeral Oration of the illustrious *Mary Stuart, Queen of Scotland*. He drew Tears from the whole Assembly. His Eloquence had already appear'd in the Funeral Oration of *Ronsard*, which he pronounc'd in the College of *Boncour*. The Chapel where the Harangue was to be made, was so full of Auditors when he arriv'd there, that he could not enter. He resolv'd to deliver it in the Court-Yard, from the Steps which go up to the Chapel. He spoke with his Sword by his side, for he was not yet engag'd in holy Orders. His Voice was so clean and so sounding, that to the very Roofs, which were loaded with Auditors, there was scarce one single Word lost. This Funeral Oration is printed with *Ronsard's* Works, whereby it receives an additional advantage by the comparison which one can't but make of it with the Works of that Poet; it is not to be comprehended how a Man of *Ronsard's* time could speak as we do at this day, and to possess himself before hand of a Stile which was not to come entirely into use in less than threescore Years afterwards.

*Henry III.* being dead, he retir'd to Cardinal *de Bourbon*, where his principal Occupation was to convert his wandering Brethren, in letting them see how he had been misled himself.

*Henry Sponde*, since Bishop of Pamiers, was one of his Conquests ; which Conversion was follow'd by several others, and Crown'd with that of *Henry IV.* which is almost entirely due to him. The King sent him to *Rome* to reconcile him to the holy See.

At his return into *France*, having read *Du Plessis Mornay's* Book against the Mass, and observ'd therein a multitude of Errors, he extract'd 'em all, offering to convince those who were minded to maintain the contrary.

The King hearing of this Proposal of the Cardinal's, and judging that the proof of it would be of great benefit to the Church, order'd a Conference, which was held at *Fontainbleau* in the Year 1600. in presence of his Majesty, between the Cardinal singly on the one part, and *du Plessis Mornay* on the other, back'd by a dozen of the most able Ministers of those Times. There was not one passage of the small number which they made choice of that was free from Heresie, or a most apparent Forgery. *Du Plessis Mornay* (who had scarce any other share in this Book, than to give a turn of Language to the Topicks furnish'd him by the Ministers) could not bear the confusion he was thrown into every moment ; so that he retir'd to *Saumur* without giving notice to the Assembly, upon which it was said pleasantly, *That he had abandon'd all the passages of H. Scripture to preserve that of Saumur.*

The Cardinal (who had receiv'd the Hat from the hand of *Clement VIII.* in the Year 1604.) return'd to *Rome* to assist at the creation of a new Pope, which was *Paul V.* This Pope had such a deference for the Sentiments of Cardinal

nal Perron, and was always so touch'd with the Reasons on which he founded them, that he would often say to the Cardinals who entred most into his Confidence, *Let us pray to God to inspire Cardinal Perron, for he will persuade us e'en what he pleases.*

At the latter end of his Life, he retir'd to his House of Bagnolet near Paris. It was there he put his last Hand to all his Works, whereof the principal are, *A Treatise of the Eucharist against du Plessis Mornay, Reply to his Britanic Majesty's Answer, The Conference at Fontainbleau;* several other Controversial Treatises, Letters, Harrangues, and other Pieces as well in Prose as Verse, all of a force and beauty which is not to be found elsewhere.

He had a Printing-house at his Seat in the Country, where he caus'd to be printed what he compos'd, which by that means being done off fair, *He could read it* (as he us'd to say) *by the light of the Print;* so he call'd the facility which Printing gives to the reading of a Work: It was also to give Copies of 'em to a small number of Friends, whose Sentiments he was desirous of having.

He died the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 1618. aged 61 Years, 9 Months, and 11 Days.

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## CARD. d'OSSAT.

**C**ardinal *d'Offat* was truly the Son of his Works, as the Spaniards speak, for he made himself every thing he was. He was born at *Cassagnabere*, a little Village in the County of *Armagnac* in the Diocese of *Auch*; his Father, a Farrier, died so poor, that he did not leave wherewithal to bury him. *Arnauld d'Offat*, his Son, then but nine Years old, being left to the wide World, had the good Fortune to meet with a Gentleman of the same Diocese, one *Anthony Marca*, who took a fancy to him, and plac'd him with a young Lord, his Nephew and Pupil, to make their Studies together. These two Orphans so unequal in Fortune, were no less so in Wit; the Poor one made much better progres than the Rich; and the difference was so great, that in three or four Years *Arnauld* was able to serve as a Preceptor to his young Master, and to his Brothers, who were also put under his Tuition.

*D'Offat* went to *Bourges* to study Civil Law under the famous *Cujas*, and return'd to *Paris* to be call'd to the Bar: Where he was admir'd, and had certainly made his Fortune in that Profession, if Providence had not call'd him to something more useful and more great. He compos'd at that time a Dissertation upon *Method*, in favour of *Ramus*, Professor in Eloquence,

quence, against James Charpentier, Doctor in Physic, and Professor in Philosophy, who answer'd him only by Invectives unworthy of his Character. *Paul de Foix*, Archbishop of *Toulouse*, whom the King (*Henry III.*) sent Ambassador to *Rome*, engag'd him to accompany him in quality of Secretary. He acquitted himself in that Employ after such a manner, as gain'd him entirely the favour of his Master, as also a very great Reputation at the Court of *Rome*. This Ambassador dying some short time after, Monsieur *de Villeroy*, Secretary of State, got *d'Offat* continu'd in the management of Affairs, being persuaded it was *He* who had written and minuted all the Letters of his Master. The Cardinal *d'Este*, Protector of the French Nation at *Rome*, who lov'd him very much for his great Qualifications, and because he was his Diocesan, (the Cardinal being Archbishop of *Auch*) offer'd him his House, where he liv'd till his decease. The Cardinal left him a Legacy of 4000 Crowns, and offer'd him a Diamond worth 20000, to keep till he was paid that sum by his Executors. But he would never accept of that Pledge whatsoever instances the Cardinal made to him; and when that Sum was paid him thirteen Years afterwards, he receiv'd it as a particular Favour. And in truth, it came to him very opportunely in the first Year of his Cardinalship; for without such an help, he had been basely gravell'd, as he said himself.

The King sent to him at *Rome* an offer of the Place of Secretary of State, which he refus'd, believing it incompatible with the Priesthood wherein he was engag'd, and choosing rather to

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live with a little more repose than the exercise of such an Office can admit of. This refusal was the cause of his Fortune; for if he had come into *France*, the perplexities of Affairs had ruin'd him, or at least hindred him from rendring to *France* the great Services he hath done.

The King (*H. IV.*) being come to the Crown, he was commission'd to obtain from the Pope *that Prince's Absolution*. This Affair was clog'd with Difficulties which seem'd unsurmountable, as well from the *Spaniards* and the Princes of the House of *Lorain*, as from the *Hugonots*, who in fact were very well affected to the Person of *Henry IV.* but were unwilling to see him strengthen himself in the bosom of the *Romish Church*. He knew so well how to traverse all these Intrigues, and at the same time to satisfie the Scruples of the Pope, (who was very distrustful) that the busines was already entirely resolv'd, and upon the point of execution, when Mons. *du Perron* arriv'd at *Rome*, where he did nothing but Sign, and reimburse him the great expence he had been at in that Court. The King in acknowledgment of so great a Service, gave him the Bishoprick of *Rennes*, whereof the Bulls were granted without Fees by the Pope.

In *September 1597*. He was honour'd with the Place of Counsellor of State; and Chancellor *Chiverni*, to whom it belonged to administer the Oath for that Office, was pleas'd that he should take it at the hands of the Duke of *Luxemburgh*, then Ambassador at *Rome*.

In

In 1599. March the 13th, He was nominated Cardinal, with the applause of the whole sacred College. He refus'd the Coach, the Horses, and the red damask Bed which Cardinal Joyeuse sent him three Weeks after: For, said he, (in a Letter he wrote to Monsieur de Villeroy) *Tho' I have not every thing that's necessary to support this Dignity, yet I will not (for that) renounce the Abstinence and Simplicity which I have always kept, nor oblige my self so much to any Lord or Prince as to the King.* He receiv'd the Visits of the sacred College in the Apartment also of Cardinal Joyeuse. In April, the following Year, returning into France, he was made Vice-Protector of the French Nation, and in that quality he perform'd all manner of good Offices to those who stood in need of his Mediation. The King gave him the Bishoprick of Bayeux, which he resign'd three Years afterwards, because he saw no possibility of residing upon it. The last important Affair he treated with his Holiness, and which he deem'd the most difficult he ever had to do with, was the Dispensation of the Marriage of the Duke of Bar, Son to the Duke of Lorain, with the King's Sister, who was then engag'd with the Heretics; yet he labour'd it with so much address, and was so successful as to perfect it, and thereby gave to the King and the Princess his Sister, one of the greatest Satisfactions they ever receiv'd. He died at Rome the 13th of March 1604. aged 67 Years, and was interr'd in the Church of St. Louis, where his Tomb is to be seen. Father Tarquinio Gallucci made his Funeral Oration.

Cardinal

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Cardinal d'Offat has been the Author of several Works, whereof there remains only the Volume of his Letters; they are so fine, so sensible, and so full of excellent Maxims, that 'tis impossible to form too great an Idea of 'em. He was a Man of incredible Acuteness, apply'd himself so intensely to every thing under his care, and above all had so right an Aim in taking his Measures, that 'tis hardly possible to observe one false Step in the infinite number of his Negotiations. His Letters have been the principal Study of the Statesmen who have come since.

*NICOLAS*

## *NICOLAS COEFFTEAU,* Bishop of *Dardanie*, &c.

THE place of his Birth is not certain. Some alledge, that he was born in the Castle of *Loir*; and others affirm it was at *St. Calais*, situated upon the same River. This circumstance is common to abundance of other great Personages, because People are apt, upon the least pretence, to assume to themselves the honour done by such great Men to the Country where they are Born. He came into the World in 1574. and in 1588 he took the Habit of Monk in the Order of *St. Dominic*, where in a short time his Merit rais'd him to the first Offices. He was Doctor of *Sorbonne*; he was made Professor in Divinity, Prior and Vicar-General; and in a Chapter held at *Rome* in 1608. he was chosen Counsellor-General of the Provincials of *France*. Queen *Margaret*, who had a wonderful judgment in Men of Worth, made him her Preacher; in which Function he gave illustrious Marks of good Sense, Eloquence, and purity of Language, which shine in all the excellent Works he has left us.

The King (*Henry the Great*) committed to him, at the solicitation of *Cardinal Perron*, the Answering the King of *England's* Book upon the *Eucharist*; which he did with a great deal  
of

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of cogency, as also that of *du Plessis Mornay* upon the same subject. The Pope (*Greg.XV.*) made use of his Pen against *Mark Anthony de Dominis*, whom he overthrew by two most excellent Treatises ; the one, entitu'd, *De Sacra Monarchia* ; and the other, *Adversus Rempublicam Marci Antonii de Dominis*. In all his Writings against the Heretics, he always us'd such moderation, that he never advanc'd any thing which might wound 'em in their *Person*, aiming only to combat their *Error* ; wherein he follow'd not only the Rules of an exact Morality, but the fairest Precepts of Eloquence, which never allows of injurious Language, the natural effect whereof is to move the Hearer *against him who speaks it*, and to make him favourable to the *Person upon whom it is spoken*.

He made the Funeral Oration of *Henry IV.* with an Elegance worthy of his subject. We have of his, *The Picture of the Penitence of Magdalen*, *The Picture of the Passion*, *The Hydra destroy'd by the Christian Hercules*, *The Christian Margaret*, which he dedicated to Queen *Margaret*, whose Preacher he was. He has also left several fine Paraphrases, and very ingenious Poems.

He was the most excellent Translator of his time ; the elegance and purity of his Stile are incomparable : It is the Testimony given of him by *Vaugelas*, the best Judge we have upon that Article, who proposes his Translations as the true Standard of fine Language. A Word, or a Phrase, however bold it be, is good, according to him, whenever it is found in the Writings of Monsieur *Coeffeteau* ; and there's scarce any which he does not suspect, when he observes

observes that Mons. Coeffeteau never uses 'em in his Works.

He has translated *Florus* and the whole sequel of the *Roman History*, with such exactness and so much splendor, that the Eloquence of those great Historians are so far from suffering the least discredit by his Translation, it seems to have receiv'd a new grace, or at least we are persuaded that the very Authors themselves would have spoken like him, had they written their History in our Tongue, and in our Time. There cannot be better proofs given of the strength and greatness of his Genius, than by keeping pace with these Men who have been always look'd upon as inimitable in a thing where Inferiority seems essential to Translations with respect to their Originals.

Cardinal Richelieu compar'd four of the best Writers of his time to the four Elements ; Cardinal de Berulle to Fire, for his Elevation ; Cardinal Perron to the Sea, for his Extent ; Monsieur de Coeffeteau to the Air, for his vast Capacity ; and the President *du Vair* to the Earth, for the abundance and variety of his Productions.

The King (*Louis XIII.*) being desirous to reward Monsieur Coeffeteau's Merit, nominated him to the Bishoprick of *Lombes* and *Xaintes*, which he refus'd. He was Administrator and Suffragan to the Bishoprick of *Metz* under the Title of Bishop of *Dardanie*. He was at length nominated to that of *Marseilles*, of which he never took Possession, being prevented by death the 21st of April 1623. at 49 Years of Age. He is bury'd in the Church of the *Jacobins du Grand Convent*, in the Chapel Royal of St. Thomas.

VINCENT

---

*VINCENT de PAUL,*  
Founder and First General-  
Superior of the Congrega-  
tion of the Mission.

IT is no strange thing for Men to become famous for having form'd Companies of Subjects, extraordinary for their Merit in Sciences and in Letters. Such Congregated Lights produce a Glory which necessarily reflects upon him who assembled them together; but it hardly ever happen'd to a private Man to get himself a great Name, for having associated Men who will not make any appearance, but study to conceal the Talents they have receiv'd from Nature; yet this is what has been done by him whose Elogium I undertake. As his aim was always the familiar Instruction of the Ignorant, the Insinuation of the Spirit of Repentance into Sinners, and of the true Evangelical Spirit into all People; he was of opinion, that Moderation and Simplicity stript of the ostentatious Trappings of humane Learning, which often glares more than enlightens, would produce better Fruit; and that the Lord would bless their labour, so much the more, as they kept to the plain and sole Exposition of the Gospel.

This

This is so true, that when two certain Men of shining Parts presented themselves to him for admission into his Congregation, he refus'd 'em for this only reason: *You are too sufficient for us*, says he to 'em, *We would have only such who speak the Word of God, who move and convert by the sole virtue of this Word, and not by their Eloquence*, to the end that *all the glory of it might be ascrib'd to the Lord*. It is not, adds he, *that I despise the excellent Qualities it has pleas'd God to give you; I am even persuaded that these Talents may be of very great use in another place*. You have the Company of the Fathers of the Oratory, where are very great Men, and very beneficial to the Church. Join your selves to them; you will then be in your proper Sphere; and God will bless your Labour and prosper you therein.

The thing happen'd as he foretold; So true it is that 'tis good to examine one self well in choosing any Profession or way of living.

*Vincent de Paul* was born in the Village of *Pouy* near *Aeqs* in the Year 1576. of very poor but very virtuous Parents; the meanness of his Birth, which would have left any other Man in Obscurity, did only serve to give him the more Lustre. One cannot cast one's Eyes upon the place of his Original, and at the same time consider the authority he arriv'd to, without wondring at the distance there is between the one and the other. Without any advantage from the Goods of Fortune, and without exhibiting any of the Talents the World esteems, he gain'd by his sole Merit among Persons of Piety at *Paris*, Credit enough to procure 'em to send during the Wars of *Lorain*, fifteen or sixteen

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sixteen hundred thousand Livres Alms. He had so much Prudence and Zeal as to engage several Ladies of Quality to assemble every Week to furnish the like Sum for the Provinces where the War and Dearth requir'd it, which also continues to this Day by the strong impression he hath given to these prudent and pious Establishments. 'Tis he who instituted that Community of Charitable Nuns, dispers'd in an infinite number of places, who devote their Lives to the Service of the sick Poor.

He provided Spiritual and Temporal Relief for the Gally-Slaves, not only at *Paris*, where he procur'd 'em places of Retirement; but also at *Marseilles*, where he obtain'd an Hospital to be built for 'em, wherein they are receiv'd upon the least indisposition of Health. His Zeal likewise extended it self to the Slaves of *Barbary*. Some of his Missionaries are now at *Algier*, to take care of the Salvation of those poor Wretches, and several among 'em have ended their Lives there in Martyrdom.

The Queen Mother taking notice of his Merit and Piety, put him into her Council of Conscience, where he continu'd ten Years, always with the same Humility, and never making use of his Interest but to obtain Favours for those he thought deserv'd 'em; never begging any thing for himself or his Relations, nor even for his Congregation, which he left Poor and in Debt.

He instituted a Congregation of Priests, who have the direction of several Seminaries in *France*, *Italy*, and even in *Poland*; he engag'd 'em to make continual Missions into the Country

try for the Instruction of Souls, and he has introduc'd that custom in the greatest Cities.

What advantage hath not the Church receiv'd, and still receives daily, from Peoples retiring into the Seminaries he hath erected, and in the other Houses of his Congregation, either for the refreshing of their Piety, or for the worthy receiving holy Orders, and perfecting themselves in the Ecclesiastical State? How much is due to him for having, with the approbation of all the Prelates, introduc'd Conferences so useful for the Instruction of those who give themselves to the Church, and take upon 'em the Cure of Souls?

The King (who was never deceiv'd in his choice of Men for the Ministry whereto he directs 'em) was pleas'd to have the Priests of this Congregation, for the Cure of *Fontainbleau*, as also of *Versailles*, and for the Direction of the *Hotel Royal des Invalides*, and that of St. Cyr. He hath establish'd 'em at *Rochefort*, and given them the Government of the Seminary of Almoners of his Ships. This preference is founded upon the Fruit they made in all places where they had any direction, but particularly upon the esteem he has of their Institution; and for that he looks upon 'em as the worthy Children of so excellent a Father.

He died at *Paris* the 27th of Septemb. 1660, aged 84 Years, and is bury'd in the Church of St. *Lazarus*.

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*JOHN de LAUNOY,  
Doctor in Divinity, &c.*

There have been Times when Ignorance was so great among the People, and even among the majority of those who then pass'd for Learned, that they made no scruple to forge Histories entirely false, provided it were thro' an intention to excite or to encrease the Piety of the Faithful. In those Days they esteem'd it every where so great an honour to have for Patron of such a Province or such a Church some Saint Cotemporary with the Apostles, or at least with the first Disciples, that there was no Fable but they invented to give themselves one of *that* Quality. From these two Springs arises that frightful mixture of Truth and Falsehood which is found in the Lives of a great number of Saints : an abuse never e-nough to be deplored for the Handle it gives to Libertines to doubt things that are most certain and most true, and to Heretics to insult us upon the Faith of our Traditions. We cannot too much commend those learned Men who have apply'd themselves to distinguish in these Histories the false from the true, and to retrench from pious Beliefs such whose foundations cannot subsist with an exact knowledge of Ecclesiastical History. Among those who have devoted themselves to this kind of Study, and

and who have render'd to the Church a Service so considerable, there will be found no one who endeavour'd it with more Zeal and Success than the Person of whom I'm going to speak.

*John de Launoy*, Doctor in Divinity, of the House of Navarre, was born in the Diocese of Coutance, the 21st of December 1603. and was brought up in Study at Coutance by *William de Launoy*, his Uncle, Proctor in the Episcopal Court of that Place. He came afterwards to Paris, where he made vast improvements, particularly in Divinity, whereof he was made Doctor in 1654. He was extreamly laborious, and above all, of an inconceivable Sagacity in retrieving of Truth and detecting of Falsehood, whatever Veils of Probability were made use of to conceal them. He had a strictness of Reason, which never conniv'd at any false Step in those who disputed against him; and when they fell, he help'd 'em up with an air of condescension altogether peculiar to himself. There was no Set of Philosophers whose Dogma's and Principles he knew not perfectly well, as also every thing that could be said to defend or to defeat their Opinions. His disinterestedness was without parallel, and he relinquish'd all his Patrimony to his Brothers and Nephews. He refus'd considerable Benefices, because he had not Voice enough to furnish out Church-Music, nor the Talent of Preaching in public, which he believ'd was absolutely necessary for the worthy performance of the Functions of that Ministry. *I could like the Church very well*, he would say, *but the Church would not like me.* Tho' the study of Divinity be of a prodigious extent, he neglected no one part of it; he read

all the Fathers, and all Authors, as well ancient as modern, which treat of Theological Matters, without excepting even some that may be reckon'd ridiculous, because there is none of 'em, according to him, from whom something may not be learn'd, either in the Doctrine or Discipline and Customs of the Church, as also because he was persuaded that it is good to see to what a pitch the liberty and fantasticalness of Men could go. He was careful to make Friends of a profound Literature, whereby he might satisfie that unbounded thirst he had for all polite Learning, and particularly for the search of Truth. Father *Sirmond* and Father *Petau*, M. *de Monmor* Master of Requests, M. *Bouiland* a great Mathematician, Messieurs *Dupuy* Keepers of the King's Library, and several other learned Men of that time, were his Masters or Companions in his Studies. Father *Sirmond*, the most intimate of his Friends, us'd to say, that when there arose among 'em any difficulty upon a point of Doctrine, Monsieur *de Launoy* commonly knew less than himself; but when he return'd after studying upon it, he possess'd it better and more fundamentally.

He has compos'd above 70 Volumes, most of 'em upon subjects I have mention'd above: It would be too tedious to tell what they contain; I shall content my self to give the Title of his principal Works, being persuaded that alone will give a just Idea of his Genius. The fabulous arrival of *Magdalen*, *Lazarus*, and *Maximin* into *Provence*; the true cause of St. *Bruna*'s retirement into the Desart; the History of *Rene*, Bishop of *Angers* and *Victorin*; Dissertation upon the two Saint *Denis*'s; of

S. Simon

S. Simon Stok's Vision ; of the Privilege of the Sabatine Bull, and of the Fraternity of the Scapulary of Carmelites ; of the Privilege of the Order of Austin's Friars ; of the Privileges of St. Germain des Prez ; of the Privilege of S. Medard. He is also the Author of several Treatises upon other subjects, such as these which follow : *Of the different Destiny of Aristotle's Works in the University of Paris* : *Of the true meaning of the 6th Canon of the Council of Nice* : *The sense of the Council of Trent touching the Satisfaction in the Sacrament of Penance* : *Tryal of the Author of the Imitation of Jesus Christ* : *Of the Worship of Saints and Relicks* : *Of the History of the College of Navarre* : *Treatise touching the power of secular Princes, in prohibitions of Marriage, &c.*

It is easie to imagine that Monsieur de Launoy could not handle all those subjects, besides an infinite multitude of others, (which the brevity of this Elogium suffers not to report) nor to move so many and so nice Questions without incurring a great deal of Contradiction, and bringing a world of Enemies upon himself; for he has oppos'd the most ancient Traditions of the Church of France. But if the Men of Learning have shewn that he's deceiv'd in some Passages, by following the Epochs of *Sulpitius Severus*, or of *Gregory de Tours*; it is also true, that the great number of paltry Answers that have been made to him, have serv'd very much to confirm the truth of what he has written for the Instruction of the People, and to revenge 'em for the Abuses that have been made of their Credulity. However it be, Monsieur de Launoy has pass'd and always will for a most

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excellent Critic, and such to whom the World  
is under very great Obligations. He is in-  
debted for so many fine Works to his piercing  
Apprehension; and above all, to the good for-  
tune he had to be resolute and disinterested at  
the same time.

He died at *Paris* the 10th of *March* 78. aged  
74 Years some Months, and is bury'd in the  
*Church of the Minims* in the Royal Square.

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PETER

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## PETER LALLEMANT, Chancellor of the University, &c.

Peter Lallemand was born at Reims of a good Family, in the Year 1622. He went thro' all his Studies there, and came afterwards to Paris, where the charms of his Wit procur'd him a world of Friends, for he wanted no quality attractive of Love. He devoted himself wholly to the study of Divinity, wherein he took the Degree of Bachelor; afterwards he profess'd Rhetoric in the College of Cardinal le Moine, not so much to instruct others in that fine Art, as to perfect himself in the knowledge he had of it. His method was, To exercise his Scholars, and also himself to speak *extempore*, and to write upon all sorts of Subjects; Which he prefer'd by much to the formal scrupulous study of Precepts; persuaded, that it is much easier to speak *Of* the Rules of Eloquence, than to speak *conformable to* the Rules of Eloquence. He made excellent Scholars, and rendred himself at the same time a very great Master in the Art of Speech. The Sermons, the Panegyrics of Saints, the Funeral Orations, and the Harangues he made upon divers Occasions, had so much success, that the University was eager to have him for their Rector, and

continu'd him in that Place for three Years by ten Elections successively.

Being of an honest, civil, generous Temper, he never spoke any thing that was disobligeing, not even against the Enemies of the University, tho' (before him) Invectives had been very much in use, upon the same occasions wherein *he* was oblig'd to speak. He pleaded several times (for the University) in the Parliament, and in the Council, where his Eloquence was almost always crown'd with success. As often as he had occasion to Harangue at Court, he was ever listen'd to and prais'd with molt singular marks of Distinction. His Reputation grew to such a height, that there was hardly any Dignities in the Church which the public Voice did not give him: In Circumstances so advantageous, and in the midst of so many hopes so sweet and so well grounded, he took a resolution of forsaking the World entirely; he resign'd the Rectorat, wherein he might have been gladly continu'd, and the next Day he retir'd to *S. Vincent de Senlis*, one of the Houses of the regular Canons of *St. Genivieve*. He wrote to his Friends, That one of the causes which had most contributed to his retreat, was the Thought which came to him several times in Preaching, *That he did not observe (himself) what he preach'd to others*. He added, That one Day in a Sermon as he was explaining the Fulness of Faith spoken of by *St. Paul*, this same Reflexion wrought so upon him, that he could neither eat nor sleep that Day nor all the next; so that being overcome, and as it were depress'd by the force and weight of this Reflexion, he had thrown himself into the

the Arms of his God, evermore to mind only the One thing necessary. He adds, That he had chosen the House of St. Genevieve because of their great conformity to the Hierarchy of the Church and the convenience of attending equally to Meditation and Works of Charity. After some Years which he pass'd in the continual exercise of all the Virtues of his Condition, God who had not replenish'd him with so many Talents to be unserviceable, set him under an happy necessity of making use of 'em ; for Father *Fronteau* Chancellor of the University, and a Regular Canon of St. Genevieve, being dead, Father *P'Allemant* was nominated to his Place. The first thing he apply'd himself to, was the Elogium of his Predecessor, which he perform'd with all the Eloquence due to so great a Person, and joining thereto all the Works of a great many learned Men upon the same subject, he compos'd thereof a very agreeable Collection, which he also took care to publish. This Charge very difficult in it self, was much more so by the obligation which seem'd to be impos'd on him of coming up to the Merit of his Predecessor ; but it may be said, that he equall'd and even surpass'd him in a great many things. All his Discourses were so full of good Sense, and compos'd with such Exactness, that it was impossible either to retrench or to add any thing upon 'em. A perfect Purity of Language reign'd equally throughout, and the nobleness of his Thoughts even excell'd the Elegance of his Words ; but what made him particularly admir'd in the public Discourses, call'd, *Puranymphe*, was the happy choice of his Praises always so proper to the Persons

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Persons they were design'd for, that they could not suit with any other ; it seem'd as if he saw the bottom of their Soul, so natural, so resembling was the Image he made of it. As his Ability was not confin'd to the single Talent of Eloquence, and that his exquisite Sense made him capable of managing the most difficult Affairs, the Parliament referr'd to him the decision of several Controversies ; the King and even the Pope often did him the same honour, particularly in the negotiating of a Peace between the Religious Houses, or in restoring ancient Discipline. He carry'd it with so much Discretion and so much Moderation, that he gain'd the love even of those whom he had reduc'd to a way of living more austere than they could have wish'd.

Whatever Honour accrue'd to him from all his Employs, yet he was always lamenting, that they forc'd him from his Cell, where the Meditation of eternal Truths were his most dear Delight. The Weakness of his Constitution and his frequent Indispositions, lessen'd not his Diligence in the least, yet they could not but warn him of his approaching End, which caus'd him to begin to withdraw himself as much as he could from Busines and the Visits of his Friends, to wrap himself up in Meditation. About this time having nominated Father Te-telet for his Successor, he thought of nothing but to prepare himself for Death. In this Disposition he compos'd the three admirable Treatises he has left us ; *The Spiritual Testament*, *The Death of the Righteous*, and, *The holy Desires of Death*. These Works have receiv'd too many Praises from the Public, to need any of

of mine. I chuse rather to observe a thing yet more praise-worthy, which is, That he always practis'd himself every individual Rule he therein gives to others.

He died the 18th of February 1673. aged 51 Years. Father Tetelet, his Successor, was willing to preserve to Posterity the Memory of this Great Man, by the Collection he has publish'd of the Elogiums and divers small Works compos'd in his Praise by his Friends, and the most celebrated Writers of his time.

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*Sebastian*

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*Sebastian le Nain de  
Tillemont.*

IF Virtue were not to be esteem'd but for the difficulty there always is in acquiring it, the Person I'm going to speak of would have merited no great Praises, in being one of the most virtuous Men of his Age. He was born with so happy a Disposition of Nature, of Parents so full of good Qualities, and receiv'd from 'em so divine an Education, that it had been less easie for him to contract Vices, than to attain to the Virtues Hereditary in his Family.

Monsieur *le Nain de Tillemont*, Son of Monsieur *le Nain* Master of Requests, and of Dame *Mary de Ragois*, was born at *Paris* the 30th of *May 1637*. It pleas'd God to give him the best constitution of Mind that could be desir'd in a young Man. From his Infancy, he was endu'd with Docility, Discretion, and Modesty. He had nothing of that Gayety which is only obtainable by Commerce with the World, from which he was always industrious to sequester himself as much as possible ; but he was lively, exact, and penetrating.

The truly Christian Education which he had from the best Masters in Polite Learning, fitted his Mind perfectly for Divinity, wherein  
(with

(with time) he made himself infinitely Knowing by his Labour and Study. He had no bent for the Scholastic, and rather chose to enquire into the foundations of his Faith in the Fountains themselves, that is to say, in the holy Scripture, and in the Fathers. This Reading, which he began at 18 Years of Age, gave him the thought of collecting what he found in the Apostles. And being mightily pleas'd with Bishop Usher's *Method in his sacred Annals*, he took from thence the plan of his Work, and improv'd very much upon the Exactness of that Author. He shew'd his Essay to those that were his Tutors, who being surpriz'd at this new kind of Writing, advis'd him to continue the Work upon the History of the first Ages of the Church. The connexion which the History of the State has with that of the Church, oblig'd him to apply equally to the search of both. The Solidity of a judicious Criticism, which was as it were natural to him; the Justness of a very accurate Discernment; an Exactness which let nothing escape it; and above all, an ardent love of Truth, made his Abilities vastly great in a short time. He was presently among the Learned as the Oracle they were to consult upon the History of former times, and the Public is particularly oblig'd to him for the Works of several Great Men, who have treated of different Parts thereof; for it is upon his Memoirs the Lives of *Tertullian* and *Origen*, have been compos'd, as also St. *Athanasius*, St. *Basil*, St. *Gregory Nazianzen*, and S. *Ambrose*. Those who were employ'd upon the Translation of the Works of St. *Cyprian*, and the latter Editions of St. *Hilarius*, of St. *Austin*

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*stin*, and *Paulinus*, have also had great helps from the History of those Saints which he communicated to 'em; above all, he was of great service to 'em in distinguishing the *true Works* of those Fathers from such as are *imputed to 'em*, and in ranging 'em according to Chronological order. He interrupted for some time his *Work upon the first Ages of the Church*, to apply himself to the study of the History of *St. Louis*, whereof he had made copious Memoirs, in consideration of a Person for whom he had all manner of deference, and who had a design to write the Life of that Great King. This Life is not yet given to the Public; but the History which Monsieur *la Chaise* has done of it, is drawn from these Memoirs. In fine, it is not to be conceiv'd how many Persons have profited by his Labour, and with what pleasure he imparted it to 'em: If they have not born him this Testimony, it is, because the only Acknowledgment he requir'd of 'em, was, *Not to let it be known.* However profound his Learning was, he would never shew it, but when he could not conceal it; and so excell'd in Humility, that this Virtue always seem'd as his peculiar Character.

Hence it is we find him in his Works (which speak him a Man of great Learning and Reputation) always backward to decide, ever ready to confess himself unable to penetrate all the Difficulties. Far from seeking to do himself honour by his Discoveries, he was glad (when another had the like Thought with himself) to quote him, though he had no Obligation to him. His Caution, (with respect to those Authors he cites) *not to put any*

any thing in their Mouths which they do not precisely speak, extends even to a scruple. Not that he ties himself to report Word for Word; he often contents himself to take only the Sense, and sometimes he puts in one Line what in the Author takes up whole Pages. It cannot be deny'd but that his Stile is a little Dry, upon the Discussions in which his Subject engages him; but even then there's always a great deal of Unction in the short and pithy Reflexions he makes upon the principal Events.

He has also found the Secret (in handling the History of the Idolatrous Emperors) to spread the Lights of Faith upon the Darkness of Paganism. He was an *Innocent Penitent, an humble Scholar, a Man indefatigable in Study, and assiduous in Prayer*. His Life is not remarkable for any extraordinary and shining Accidents: The Uniformity of a Conduct truly Ecclesiastic and worthy of a Christian Recluse, is that which makes up all his Merit before God, and which will cause him to be admir'd by all those who will do him justice.

He had a Candour and Affability which got him the love of every body; he was not harsh nor severe, but only to himself; for the Innocence of his Life did not withhold him from afflicting his Body by a continual and rigorous Penance. His common way of living was rather a continual Fast, than a Life of Frugality. His Fasts were like those of the Primitive Christians. His Austerities, join'd to the great fatigues of Study, destroy'd at last all the strength of his Body, and threw him into a Weakness that lasted three Months, during which time he practis'd

practis'd as much Virtue as in his Health. He continu'd all his Exercises with the same fervor, till he was reduc'd to an absolute disability to follow 'em. The more his Body was cast down, his Spirit rais'd it self the higher towards God, entirely taken up with Prayer and a blessed Eternity ; into which he entred the 10th of *January* 98. aged 60 Years, 1 Month, and some Days, with the Confidence of the Children of God, and the Humility of a Man, who in a Life the most devoted to the service of God and the Church, still look'd on himself *as an unprofitable Servant.*

He died at *Paris*, and his Body was carry'd to *Port-Royal des Champs*, where he desir'd to be bury'd.

## *John-Baptiste Santevil, Regular Canon of St. Vi- ctor.*

Poets often tell of their Enthusiasm, and a certain Rage which lifts 'em above themselves, so that they doubt sometimes if what they produce (when they are in these fits) is of their own growth, or whether it be not given 'em from above by Inspiration. There's no Poet but pretends to be seized with this divine Agitation when he Writes, and fancies himself heated with this prolific Fire, tho' his Compositions be never so cold. But if ever Man was Breathed upon after this manner, or suffer'd any such Transportments, it was *He* of whom I speak.

The Heat that labour'd within him was visible; The Beams of his Imagination spread it self all over his Person; his Feet, his Hands, his Eyes, every thing was Expressive; and as if he could not contain the Ideas that fill'd him, every thing spoke in him, and made believe that some second auxiliary Spirit join'd it self to the first; such was the abundance and strength of his Thoughts.

The greatest part of Mankind having little notion of what passes in vigorous and strong

D Genius's;

Genius's, and having but just Soul enough for a weak performance of the simple Duties of Civil Life, would often take *that* for Frenzy which was the customary Ebullition of his Vivacity, and the noble Boldness of his Constitution, all Fire, and all Light.

Born of a good and ancient Family at *Paris*, he made his Studies with the Jesuits, where Father *Coffart*, a Man of singular Merit, and his Master in Rhetoric, did mightily inflame by Precept and Example his natural Inclination to Latin Poetry, which he cultivated all his Life. His Works have been every body's delight; his Verses, tho' very sublime, have that natural turn, which makes them universally understood; contrary to the custom of most of the modern Latin Poets, who value themselves upon a most unlucky profound Obscurity.

As he was no less Polite in his *merry Vein*, than lofty and surprizing in his *great Subjects*, he made Inscriptions for most of the Fountains in *Paris*, with all the Grace, all the Salt, and all the Eloquence that can be wish'd. They are for the most part Distichs, so proper for the Places where they're fix'd, and so significant of a great many things in a few Words, that 'tis impossible not to read 'em every time one meets with 'em. I cannot forbear inserting in this place an Inscription grav'd upon the Gate of the Conduit of *Notre Dame* Bridge at *Paris*.

*Sequana cum primum Regine allabitur Urbi  
Tardat præcipites ambitiosus aquas,  
Captus amore loci cursum obliviicitur anceps  
Quo fluat, & dulces needit in Urbe moras.  
Hinc varios implens fluctu subeunte canales,  
Fons fieri gaudet qui modo Flumen erat.*

*Where first the Seine the Royal City laves,  
Ambition seizing, Stops his headlong Waves,  
Charm'd with the Place, forgets his forward way,  
And for Lutetia's Love, seeks dear delay.  
To various Ducts submitting thus his Flood,  
Grows a glad Fountain, from a River-God.*

He set himself afterwards to compose Hymns for the Church, wherein he excell'd to admiration. 'Tis well known, that excepting a few which have been made by *Prudentius*, St. *Austin*, St. *Ambrose*, St. *Thomas*, and some other Great Men, Hymns are none of the most correct or most beautiful part of Divine Service. When those of *Santevil* were seen, 'tis incredible how much they were admir'd by all People. He has made a very great Number of 'em : The Breviary of *Clugni* is quite full of 'em : The Churches whose Patrons had none at all, and till then only us'd to sing at their Feast *The Ordinary of Martyrs and Confessors*, were all desirous of having peculiar Hymns, and of Monsieur *Santevil*'s composing. It has been pretended, that the Stile of 'em was not Ecclesiastic enough, nor sufficiently conceiv'd in Terms consecrated by the Usage of the whole Church ; but this was only complaining that they were too fine and too Elegant, nor can

it enter into my Head, why mongrel Latin should be more proper to inspire Piety, than the same Tongue in its natural Purity; to hear 'em sung five or six times at the great Feasts, (for the Solemnity whereof they're made) they shall elevate and inspire more than the sanctity of the Mysteries or holy Actions they celebrate. No body of his Profession was ever more known or more esteem'd for his Works: He was not only belov'd by the People and his Friends; the greatest Lords at Court took an extream pleasure in the enjoyment of his Company, always hearty and cheerful; *His Fire was ever bright, ever serene, and cast no Sparks to be fear'd.*

The great Prince of Condé lov'd him very much, and the Prince his Son more; and carry'd him often to his House at Chantilly, where he was the delight of Conversation in the honest Liberty of a Country Retirement. He has celebrated the wonderful Beauties of that House, and thereby secured their Immortality in the memory of Mankind more effectually than all the Art of the Workmen that made 'em.

He died at Dijon the 5th of August 1697. in a Journey he was making with Monsieur the Duke to the States of Burgundy, of a sudden fit of the Cholic, which carry'd him off after 14 Hours intolerable pain in the Bowels. Notwithstanding the violence of his Distemper, he fail'd not to perform his Duties as a Christian with extraordinary fervour, and receiv'd his Sacraments in a manner so sensible and so moving, that he drew floods of Tears from all that were about him and were witnesses of the last moments of his Life. The States of Burgundy unwilling to deprive the Abby St. Victor of the honour

honour of his Sepulture, caus'd his Body to be taken up and sent to Paris in a Leaden Coffin, and Monsieur the Prince paid the charge of transporting it. A very solemn Service was made for him, and he was bury'd in the Cloister of that Abby the 17th of October 97. An Epitaph was set up for him against the Wall of this Cloister, where are these Verses.

*Quem superi Praeconem habuit, quem sonda Poetam  
Religio, latet hoc marmore Santelius,  
Ille etiam Heroas, Fontesq; & Flumina, & Hortos  
Dixerat; At cineres quid iuvat iste labor?  
Fama hominum merces sit versibus aqua profanis,  
Mercedem poscunt Carmina sacra Deum.*

And upon the Tomb, beneath, are these Words.

*Hic jacet F. Joan Baptiste de Santeuil,  
bujus Abbatie Canonicus Regularis  
& Subdiaconus, qui sacros Hymnos  
pius aque ac politis versibus, ad  
usum Ecclesiae concinnavit.*

*Obiit die 5 Augusti, Anno R. S. 1697. Et. 66.*

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## *HIEROM VIGNIER,* Priest of the Oratory.

*Hierom Vignier* was born at *Blois* in the Year 1606. of *Nicolas Vignier Sieur de la Motte*, and of *Olympia le Blond*. He had great pregnancy of Wit; so that having study'd Law (after Philosophy) he was call'd to the Bar at 16 Years of Age, to the amazement of the Professors, who were charm'd with his Pleadings. His Father suffer'd himself to be carry'd away by *Calvin's Heresie*, at that time spread all over France. It pleas'd God to withdraw him from it; but his Wife obstinately persisting in her Error, she brought up her Children there, whereof the eldest, *Nicolas Vignier*, marry'd at *Blois*, and made profession of the pretended Reform'd Religion. As for *Hierom*, whom I speak of, the frequent reading of the holy Scripture and the Fathers, made such an impression upon his Mind, that all the Tears of his Father and Mother (who fear'd his Conversion long before he declar'd it) could not extinguish the ardour he felt for the Truth. However, to avoid exposing himself at the same time to the Resentments of an exasperated Father, the Tendernesses of an afflicted Mother, and the Artifices of the Ministers, who suspecting him to be none of the best Calvinist, hindred

hindred his Father from buying him the Office of Justice of *Beaugency*, he was oblig'd to feign Sickness for some time; insomuch that he took Phyick, to exempt himself from going to their Sermons on the Days of Duty. This Stratagem took effect, and his Father bought him the Place he wish'd.

As soon as he was settled in it, he made it his study to extinguish all the Law Suits among the Inhabitants of *Beaugency*; he establish'd Order among the subordinate Officers, and oblig'd them by his own example to render good and speedy Justice. His Father would have marry'd him to a young Woman of the pretended Reform'd Religion. Whereupon he immediately declar'd not only his Conversion, but the design he had of turning *Carthusian*; which he soon did, with an extraordinary Fer-vour. But being of a tender Constitution of Body, not capable of the Austerities of that holy Order, he retir'd to the Fathers of the O-ratory under the favour of Cardinal *de Berulle*, who honour'd him with a peculiar Esteem. In this Community he labour'd no less for his Neighbour (by his pious Conferences and learned Writings) than for himself; so that the proofs he gave there of his Merit, rais'd him to the Dignity of Superior of the Houses of *Tours*, of *Rochelle*, and of *Lyon* successively, and at length to that of Superior of *S. Magloire* at *Paris*, wherein he was continu'd after the term was expir'd.

He had a great desire to see his Family follow his example, by returning as he did to the bosom of the Church; yet God granted him

40 *Illustrious Men of France,*

but one of those Souls for whom he put up so many Prayers.

He was very skilful in the Greek, *Chaldee*, *Hebrew*, and *Syriac* Tongues; and yet more so in the knowledge of the Rise of all the Sovereign Houses in *Europe*, who consulted him upon their Doubts. He made a Journey into *Lorain*, where, by his own pains and the help of Monsieur *Vignier*, Intendant of Justice in that Country, he discover'd such curious Antiquities upon the origin of the House of *Lorain*, and those of *Austria*, *Luxembourg*, *Baden*, *Alsatia*, and others, that he made an admirable Work of 'em, which the learned *Chifflet* translated into Latin, avowing that whatever had appear'd till then touching the origin of the House of *Austria*, ought to be suppress'd, and only the Lights of Father *Vignier* follow'd. He was so exquisite a Critic in Medals, that his Collections were a great Treasure to the curious Cabinet of the late D. of *Orleance*, the Rarities whereof have pass'd into that of the King. Being at *Venice*, he discover'd there a MS. Treatise of S. *Fulgentius*, which he transcrib'd with a world of pains, and would have given it to the Public, if Death had not prevented him. He found also at *Clairvaux* two Volumes of the Works of St. *Austin*, which had not been printed, and which he gave with a Concordance of the Evangelists. He had compos'd two Volumes of the Ecclesiastical History of *France*, which he was ready to put to the Press when he died. His application to these severer sorts of Study did not hinder him from shewing the Brightness of his Genius, in the composition of several pieces of Poetry, and particularly

particularly some Paraphrases of the Psalms in fine Latin, which did him a great deal of honour, and which Cardinal de Richelieu prefer'd to all those which were made at that time.

It pleas'd God to make tryal of his Patience, in the most exquisite Tortures of the Stone, which oblig'd him to come to Paris. Prince Ferdinand of Lorain had been Cut some time before by the Sieur Collot, and the consequence of this Operation not proving successful, Father Vignier's Friends advis'd him to take another Operator; but the knowledge he had of his Capacity, persuaded him to make choice of Collot, saying moreover, *That he had a mind to recover the Reputation of so excellent a Man.*

The Operation was perform'd in the House of St. Magloire on Good-Friday. The Stone weigh'd seven Ounces; and the Operator, who endeavour'd either to draw it out or to break it, was a full quarter of an Hour trying all sorts of means to perform either one or t'other. These were inexpressible Pains. At length he compleated it by an unexpected Providence; and the Sieur Collot confess'd that next to God Father Vignier ow'd his Life to nothing but his own Patience; for that the least motion would have caus'd his Death. As soon as he was cur'd, he return'd to Chalons, where he set himself to compose divers Works, which he came to finish at Paris in 1661. to give 'em to the Public.

42 *Illustrious Men of France,*

He was no sooner arriv'd there, but was taken with a sort of a Dropfie and Quartan Ague, which turning to a Continual Fever, put an end to his Life, November the 14th 1661. aged 55 Years.

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*Father*

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## *Father Fr. de Combefis.*

Those who are lovers of Learning and the purity of the Doctrine of the first Ages of the Church, will be glad to see the Elogium of Father *de Combefis*; for it may be said, that no body ever div'd farther than he did in the knowledge of Authors who writ in those times, and especially the Greek Fathers, whom he has translated almost all *de novo*, or illustrated with very curious and instructive Notes. He was born at *Marmand* upon the *Garonne* near *Bourdeaux* in 1605. of Relations who held a Rank considerable enough in the Bar. He made his Studies of Humanity and Philosophy with much success; the Christian Education he had receiv'd in his Family having instill'd into him a great deal of Piety. The Correspondence he had from his Youth with the Monks of St. *Dominick*, prevail'd on him to take the Habit of their Order in 1624. where he led a very holy and exemplary Life to the last.

Charm'd as he was with the Doctrine of St. *Thomas*, he began again his whole course of Philosophy, to take the Principles of this Great Doctor, and make 'em the foundation of the Divinity he afterwards study'd. He perfected himself so in the study of these two Sciences, that he was establish'd at *Bourdeaux* Reader of Philosophy;

44 *Illustrious Men of France,*

Philosophy ; and some time after he was appointed to teach Divinity in the Convent of St. Maximin. At the end of both these painful Employments, he refus'd the Dispensations (that are ordinarily given to Professors who teach) for allowing more time for Study. He assisted at the whole Divine Office night and day, and at all the Duties of the Community.

When the House *de l'Estroite Observance* was built at Paris, he was sent to teach Divinity ; but the easie access his Merit procur'd him to the most famous Libraries, made him resolve to execute the design he had conceiv'd for a long time, to purge the Works of the Fathers of the Greek Church of an infinite number of Faults which had slipt into 'em. As he had a perfect understanding of the Greek Tongue, and found a great many valuable MSS. in the King's Library, in the Chancellor's, and some others, he began by translating several excellent Treatises of very good Authors who never had been known, and caus'd them afterwards to be printed. To do the Church this service, he quitted the School where he had taught two Courses of Divinity, and took such a delight in this glorious and useful Work, that he continu'd it for near 50 Years with an indefatigable Application, and with such success, that the Assembly of the Clergy after having congratulated him upon the Excellency of his Work, granted him in the Year 1644. a Favour they had never done to any Monk : They gave him a Pension of 1000 Livres, which continu'd till his death ; and which he made use of to pay the Writers he employ'd at Rome, at Paris, and

and elsewhere, for transcribing the Greek Manuscripts of the *Vatican Library*, and other remote places.

To see the Catalogue of Books he has translated and enrich'd with Notes, and those of his own Composing, 'twill be always matter of amazement, how a Man of a Complexion so weak and so attenuated by Penitential Mortifications, could have strength enough for so many Works. He has augmented the Library of the Greek Fathers with several Volumes. He has written the History of the *Monothelites*; he has translated *Amphilochius*, *Asterius*, *Andreas Cretensis*, St. *Maximus* the Confessor, *Manuel*, *Calecas*, *Theodore* of *Ancyra*, and a very great number of small Treatises by several other Fathers; but with Notes of profound Learning. He has restor'd to their primitive Purity the Works of S. *Denis*, *Methodius*, S. *Chrysostom*, the two St. *Basils*, the three St. *Gregories*, him of *Nyssa*, the *Thaumaturge*, and the Divine. He has compos'd for Preachers eight Volumes of Sermons and Homilies of the Greek and Latin Fathers, reporting upon each Gospel of the Year, what they have written for the Explication of Mysteries, and Instruction of the People.

Monsieur *Colbert*, who took care to get translated and printed at the *Louvre*, with a Royal Magnificence, all the Greek Authors that have spoken of the *Byzantine History*, as well for what concerns Religion as Politics, being inform'd of the profound Learning of Father *de Combeis* upon this Subject, engag'd him to labour incessantly upon *Theophanes*, and some other Greek Authors, that were wanting to the perfection

## 46 *Illustrious Men of France,*

perfection of this History. He undertook and compleated this great Work; but Death taking him off, June the 23d 79. in the 74th Year of his Age, depriv'd him of the satisfaction of seeing the Impression entirely compleated.

If I undertook to relate here all his Actions, or, to say better, all the Prodigies of his unparallel'd Piety, I should want more space to do it in than I have hitherto made use of; and in truth, this excellent Man deserves rather to be put in the Catalogue of Saints, than among the Illustrious Men whose Elogiums are here made.

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M A R I N

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## MARIN MERSENNE, Mathematician, &c.

Father Mersenne deserves a place here, not only for his own particular Merit, but also for the Merit of most of the great Mathematicians of this Age, since 'tis certain that he excited them to the Study and Discovery of a great many curious things, which otherwise had remain'd unknown.

Marin Mersenne was born in the Town of Oyse, in the Country of Maine, the 8th of September 1588. He made his Studies in the College *la Fleche*, where the goodness of his Disposition and clearness of Reason, procur'd him the love of all the Fathers of the Society, and particularly of the Fathers *Chastelier*, *la Tour*, and *Phelypeaux*. He afterwards went through his Course of Divinity at *Paris*, under *Mesfieurs du Val*, *Ysambert* and *Gamache*, the most celebrated Professors that perhaps have ever been in *Sorbonne*.

From that time he liv'd in great Piety; and passing into the Monastery of *Plessis les Tours*, he was so touch'd with the exemplary Life of the good Minims of this Convent, that he resolv'd to embrace the same; (which he did in the House of the Royal Square at *Paris*) where he took

took the Habit July the 17th 1611. and made Profession in 1612. He learn'd Hebrew of *John Bruno-Celestin*, Doctor in the Universities of *Alcala* and *Avignon*, which gave him great light in his Divinity-Studies, wherein he succeeded extraordinarily, as may be seen in his *Commentaries upon Genesis*, and in the two Tomes he has compos'd; one, *Of the Analysis of the Spiritual Life*; and the other, *Of the use of Reason*; and particularly in that which he wrote against the Impiety of Deists and Atheists.

He was a great lover of the Mathematicks, which he has cultivated in almost all its Parts with great success. What he has written of *Harmony* in twelve Books, is very excellent. He did it first in *Latin*, and afterwards put it into *French*. In the first Tome, he treats of Sounds and Movements, Consonances, Dissonances, the kinds and modes of Composition, the Voice, Tunes, and all sorts of Musical Instruments, explaining the manner of their construction. He gives examples in Pieces of all sorts of Music, he shews wherein they differ one from another, and what constitutes their true Character. The second Tome contains the Practice of Consonances and Dissonances in the Counterpoint figur'd, Music Accental, Rhythmical, *French Profodie* and Music, the manner of singing the Odes of *Pindar* and *Horace*. There never was a more curious Enquiry upon every thing that regards Music, touching which, he seems not to have forgot any thing which might give a perfect knowledge thereof. He must have  
join'd

join'd to a prodigious Reading of all the Authors that have spoken of it, most profound Meditations of his own, to be able to draw forth all the Particulars he reports. He has also written of the Measures, Weights, and Coins of the *Hebrews*, *Greeks*, and *Romans*, reduc'd to the Value of the Coin of *France*. He has made a Treatise of *The Element of the Air*; another, *Means of Navigating and Travelling above and under the Water*; another, *Of the Load-stone*; and another, Wherein he explains the Flight of Arrows, Jactation of Darts, Bullets, &c. Few Authors have rais'd themselves to so many sublime Notices, descending also into so particular a detail of every thing that concerns Mathematicks. He carry'd into all these Disquisitions, a Sagacity and Penetration peculiar to himself.

He died the 1st of *September* 48. of an Imposthume; at first it was taken for a sort of a Plurisie. He was of a Temper courteous, gay, and complaisant. There were two Men who wrote against him, *Sixtinus Amama*, Grammar-Professor at *Franeker* in *Friseland*; but at length when he came to know Father *Mersenne*, he contracted a Friendship with him, and afterward wrote to him several very obliging Letters. The second was *Robert Flud*, an *English* Physician. Two Fathers (*Minims*) answer'd for *Mersenne*, and above all, Monsieur *Gassendi*, who fully refuted the Dreams and false Opinions of this *English* Physician.

50 *Illustrious Men of France,*

He had for Friends Messieurs de *Sainte-Marthe*, *Hevelius*, the *Elzevirs*, Monsieur *Descartes*, Monsieur *Gassendi*, *Scheinerus*, Monsieur *Naude*, Monsieur *Petit*, *Leo Allatius*, *Selden*, *William Colletet*, *la Motte le vair*, Monsieur *Peyresc*, and several other Great Men of this Age.

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H E N R Y

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## HENRY de LORAIN E, Count d'Harcourt, &c.

THE Genealogy of this Great Man would fill up his whole Elogium, should I undertake to deduce it in all its extent: But the Antiquity and Grandeur of the House of *Lorain* being known to all the World, I shall pass directly to the Actions of his Life, more glorious for him than all the advantages of his Birth.

*Henry of Lorain, Count d'Harcourt, d'Armagnac and de Brienne, Viscount de Marsan,* Knight of the King's Order, Great Master of the Horse, &c. was second Son of *Charles de Lorain*, first of the Name, Duke *d'Elbeuf*, and *Margaret Chabot*. He gave the first proofs of his Courage at the Battel of *Prague*, which happen'd the 8th of November 1618. He went thither with *Charles IV. Duke of Lorain*, Chief of his House. Returning into France, he serv'd in quality of Volunteer in the Wars against the Hugonots, and was in the famous Sieges of *St. John d'Angely*, *Montauban*, and *Rocheille*, where he distinguisht himself by an infinite number of Actions of extraordinary Bravery. He gave a very flagrant proof of it in the Boldness, or rather, if we may so say, the Temerity he had to enter into single Combat at the Age of 18, with *Monsieur de Bouteville*,

52 *Illustrious Men of France,*

ville, esteem'd the bravest and most dextrous Man in the World at those sort of Engagements. The sage Prohibitions that have abolish'd Duels, and cur'd France of so pernicious a Distemper, were not then made. Monsieur *de Bouteville* had challeng'd Monsieur *d'Elbeuf*, who was immediately seiz'd by the King's order. The young Count *d'Harcourt* took his Brother's Quarrel. The Combat was rough and vigorous on both sides. They clos'd Body to Body, and were at last parted by Count *d'Harcourt's* Second, who had disarm'd his Man.

In 1629. He signaliz'd himself at the Attack of the Pass of *Suza*; and in 1633. the King, in testimony of the satisfaction he took in his Services, made him Knight of his Orders. In 1637. He Commanded the Naval Army, and took the Islands of *St. Honorat* and *St. Margaret* from the Spaniards. In 1639. He won a Battel near *Quiers* in Piedmont, where he rou-ted the Spanish Army. In 1640. He took *Coni*, and besieg'd *Turin*; in which Siege were perform'd so many memorable Actions, and parti-cularly by him who Commanded, that divers Authors have written great Volumes of 'em. The Besiegers having starv'd those within the Town, were afterwards starv'd themselves in their Trenches. But notwithstanding all the Extremities of Famine, Count *d'Harcourt* was not discourag'd at the Siege; and answer'd the Enemy who would have propos'd a Truce, *That when his Horses had eaten all the Grass round Turin, and the Soldiers had eaten all the Horses of his Army, he would raise the Siege.* The Besieged made above twenty nine Sallies, and were

were at length constrain'd to Capitulate. The King being desirous to reward so important and so considerable Services, gave him the Government of *Guienne* in 1642, and the Place of Great Master of the Horse in 1643.

The same Year, he went Ambassador extraordinary into *England*, to pacifie the Troubles that were rising there. In 1645. He was made Viceroy of *Catalonia*, where at the Battel of *Llorens*, he defeated the *Spaniards*, commanded by the Marquis de *Mortare*. A short time after, he took *Balaguer*; where the rest of the Enemy's Army were fled; and obtain'd several Advantages. But as it is impossible for Valour (in whatever degree of eminence possess'd) to be always fortunate, he succeeded not at the Siege of *Lerida*. This reverse of Fortune serv'd only to make his Virtue shine the brighter, by the manner of his bearing of it; and that he knew how to withdraw his whole Army from such Extremities. In 1649. He was sent into the *Low Countries*, where he took *Condé*, *Maubeuge*, the Castle de l'*Esclere*, and several other places, with an incredible Rapidity, tho' common to him. After great Services in *Guienne*, during the Troubles of the Year 1651. and 1652. the King gave him the Government of *Alsace*, whither he retir'd, and which afterwards he resign'd for that of *Anjou*. He died suddenly in the Abby of *Royaumont* the 25th of July 1666. at the Age of 66 Years.

He marry'd in 1639. *Margaret de Cambout*, Daughter of *Charles Baron of Pont Chateau*, by whom he had *Louis de Lorain*, Count d'*Armagnac* and *Brionne*, Great Master of the Horse; *Philip*, known under the Name of *Chevalier*

54 *Illustrious Men of France,*

*de Lorain, Alphonse-Louis*, known under that of *Chevalier d'Harcourt*, General of the Gallies of *Maltba*, *Raymond-Berenger*, Abbot of *St. Faron de Meaux*, *Charles Count de Marsan*, and *Armande-Henrietta Abbess of Notre Dame de Soissons*.

The Count *d'Harcourt* was one of the bravest and most fortunate Captains that ever was; Victory follow'd him every where; and except the Siege of *Lerida*, where indeed he had not the Advantage, he always came off Superiour in all the Engagements he was ever in. He was Brave, Generous, Undaunted, and *as good to his Soldiers as terrible to his Enemies.*

**MAXI-**

**MAXIMILIEN  
de BETHUNE,**  
Duke of *Sully*, &c.

**M**aximilian de Bethune was descended from one of the greatest and ancientest Houses in France, which derives its original from the ancient Counts of Artois. He comes in the Male Line from Robert the First of the Name, surnam'd *Faisseus*, Lord of the Town of Bethune, and Protector of the Abby of St. Vaast-d'Arras in the Reign of *Hugh Capet*. He lost his Father and Mother very young, and was unhappy engag'd in the Errors of *Calvinism* by *Francis de Bethune* his Father, who was carry'd away by the torrent of the Heresie. He adher'd to the Person of *Henry King of Navarre*, by the death of Duke *d'Alençon* become presumptive Heir to the Crown, and follow'd him to the Battel of *Coutras*, under the Name of Baron *de Rony*.

After the death of *Henry III.* who was kill'd at the Siege of Paris, he follow'd *Henry IV.* his Master (then King of France) to the Battels of *Arques* and *Ivry*, and the Rencounter of *Aumale*, *Pontarsy*, and *Ivetot*. He afterwards reduc'd *Normandy* and *Havre de Grace* to the King's Obedience, by his Negotiation with Ad-

56 *Illustrious Men of France,*

miral *Villars*. He also made the King and the Duke de Montpensier Friends with Count Soissons. The King for his Services made him of all his Councils, and gave him the Place of General-Surveyor of France. Then his Majesty made him Superintendant of his Treasury, which he reduc'd to excellent Order by his Capacity and Vigilance. He redeem'd the King's Demesns which were mortgag'd, eas'd the People, and paid regularly all the Expences of the State. The King to shew his great Satisfaction in his Conduct, invested him, upon the surrender of Monsieur d'Estres, with the Post of Master of the Ordnance of France, which upon his account, he erected into an Office of the Crown; and after having erected Rosny into a Marquisate, he gave him also the Government of the Bastile, and the Surveyorship of the Buildings and Fortifications of France.

This sage and vigilant Minister, by his application, repair'd all the Royal Houses, the High-ways and Causeys. He caus'd the Frontier places of the Kingdom to be fortify'd. He was employ'd in all the greatest Affairs of State. It was his Negotiation which brought about the Marriage of the King's Sister with the Duke of Bar, and the Dissolution of the King's Marriage with the Q. Margaret, who wish'd that the Affair might be manag'd only by the Marquis de Rosny. He concluded by himself the Treaty with the Duke of Savoy, and was sent his Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary to James VI. King of Scotland, then come to the Crown of England. He receiv'd from that Prince a great many marks of his Friendship and

and Esteem, and renew'd all the Treaties that had been made, and all the Alliances which had been contracted with that Crown. He was honour'd with three Briefs from two Popes, to exhort him to turn to the true Religion; two from *Paul V.* and one from *Urban VIII.*

*Henry the Great* regarded him more, lov'd him more, esteem'd him more than any one of his Ministers. He always put his principal Confidence in him; and commonly in Speaking to him, or in Writing to him with his own Hand, he honour'd him with the glorious Title of **HIS FRIEND.**

In 1606. He erected the Territory of *Sully* into a Dutchy and Peerdom of France. It is certain that no body was ever more devoted than he to the Person of his Master, or did him greater or more Services, without giving way to any thing that might cool or flacken his Zeal: But it is true at the same time, that never did Prince better support his faithful Servant upon all occasions, than *Henry the Great*, who postponed his dearest Pleasures to the solid Satisfaction of doing *him* justice.

The King also admonish'd him several times to change his Religion, and promis'd him, in case he would turn Catholic, the Office of Constable of France after the death of Monsieur the Duke of *Montmorency*, and the Government of Normandy after that of the Duke of *Montpensier*. The King (*Henry IV.*) being kill'd in going to see him and to confer with him upon his most important Affairs, he retir'd from Court, and put into the Hands of

## 58      *Illustrious Men of France,*

of the Queen Regent (*Mary de Medicis*) seventeen Millions of Livers, which he kept in the *Bastile* for the Service of his Master. The King (*Louis XIII.*) often sent for him during his Reign, to consult with him, in the greatest Emergencies of the State; and desiring to have his Post of Master of the Ordnance, which was then in reversion to *Maxamilian de Bethune Marquis of Rosny* his eldest Son, he sent him the Bâtoon of Marshal of France.

He died at *Villebon*, one of his Seats, the 21st of December 1641. aged 82 Years. He was marry'd twice; first, to *Anne de Courtney*, by whom he had *Maximilian* the second of the Name, Marquis de Rosny, Master of the Ordnance of France. His second Wife was *Rachel de Cochefilet*, Daughter of Lord *de Vaucluz*, by whom he had at first several Male Children, who died very young, and afterwards *Francis de Bethune*, Duke *d'Orval*, Knight of the King's Orders, and Master of the Horse to the Queen; *Margaret de Bethune* marry'd to *Henry Duke of Rohan*, Peer of France; and *Louisa de Bethune* marry'd to *Alexander de Levi*, Marquis de Mirepoix.

We have Memoirs of every thing he did during his Ministry, which lasted the whole Life of *Henry IV.* 'Tis pretended that they were drawn up by his Secretaries. However it be, there can be nothing more useful for those who are minded to instruct themselves in the management of Affairs, nor more agreeable for those who seek to satisfie their Curiosity in the knowledge of the Transactions of those Times.

*Mareschal*

## Mareschal de Meilleraye.

Charles de la Porte, D. of Meilleraye, Peer, Mareschal, and Great Master of the Ordnance of France, was the Son of Charles de la Porte, Sieur de la Meilleraye and of Claude de Champlais. He was born in the Year 1602. with great advantages on the part of Nature, a world of Wit and Courage. His Sword advanc'd him to the most eminent Posts in a short time. He first distinguish'd himself at the Attack of the Passage of Susa, in the Year 1629. and in the Battel of Pont Carignon in 1630. He also perform'd extraordinary Feats of Valour at the Siege of la Motte in Lorain in 1634. Cardinal de Richelieu, so great a discerner of Men, touch'd with his Merit which had glitter'd upon these different occasions, was glad of any opportunity to shew how much he esteem'd him. He had already obtain'd him the Government of the Castle of Nantes in 1632. as also to be Knight of the King's Orders in 1633. and in 1634. procur'd him the Post of Great Master of the Ordnance.

Monsieur de Meilleraye possess'd of these high Dignities, serv'd at the Battel of Avein, the Siege of Dole, Louvain, and several other places, where by his Conduct and Valour he always turn'd the Victory to his Majesty's Arms. After the taking of Hesdin from the Spaniards, he receiv'd at the King's Hands, and in the midst

## 60 *Illustrious Men of France,*

midst of the whole Army, the Bâton of Marechal of France, upon the Breach of the Place, June the 30th 1639. He defeated the Troops of Marquis de Fuentes the 4th of August following, and contributed very much to the taking of *Arras*, commanding the Army at that time with Marshals *de Chaulnes* and *Chastillon*. The Years following, he took (with incredible Rapidity) *Aire*, *la Bassée* and *Bapaume* in *Flanders*, *Collioure*, *Perpignan* and *Salces* in *Roussillon*. In 1644. He was made Lieutenant-General under Monsieur the Duke of *Orleans*; and in 1646. he commanded the Army in *Italy*, where he took *Piombino* and *Portolongone*. The taking of these two Places carry'd terror through all *Italy*, and gave a very considerable Reputation to his Majesty's Arms. The King to acknowledge so continual and so important Services, erected *Meilleraye* into a Dury and Peerdom, which was regiltred in Parliament the 15th of December 1663. He died at *Paris* in the Arsenal, February the 8th 1664. aged 62 Years. He was a Man of a most unparallel'd Vigour and Resolution, a rigid Observer of Military Discipline, as well in his own Particular as in regard to those who were under him; Intrepid in Battel, and almost always Fortunate in the success of his Enterprises, as is apparent from the great number of Towns he took, and Victories he won.

He marry'd first (in 1630.) *Mary Rusé*, Daughter of *Anth. Rusé*, Marquis *d'Effiat* and Marechal of France. After that, he made a second Alliance with *Mary de Cossé*, Daughter of *Francis Duke of Brissac*. He had by the first Bed, *Armand Charles de la Porte* Duke of *Mazarin*, of

of *Meilleraye* and *Mayanne*, who marry'd *Hortensia Mancini*, Niece of Cardinal *Mazarin*, whose Name and Arms he bears : Of this Marriage came the Children which follows ; *Mary Charlotte* born *March* the 28th 1662, who was married to the Marquis of *Richelieu*, Governor of *la Fere*; *Mary Anne*, born in 63. a Nun in the Abby of *Lys*; *Mary Olympia*, born in 65. marry'd in 1681. to *Christopher Louis de Giguault*, Marquis of *Bellefonds*, who was kill'd at the Battel of *Steinkirk* in 92. *Paul Julius Mazarin*, Duke of *Meilleraye*, Great Baily and Landzvoght of *Hagueneau*, Governor of *Port Louis de Blavet*, born the 25th of *January* 66. He marry'd in *December* 85. the Daughter of *Marechal de Duras*, Knight of the King's Orders, and Captain of Life-Guards.

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*Marechal*

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*Mareschal de Gramont,  
Duke and Peer of France.*

**A**nthony Gramont, Duke of Gramont, Peer and Marechal of France, was born at *Hagetmeau* in 1614. When he had receiv'd an Education worthy of his Birth, which together with a very pregnant and solid Wit, made him one of the most accomplish'd young Gentlemen in the Kingdom; he entred into the Service when he could hardly write Man. He signaliz'd himself at the Defence of *Mantua*, where he was wounded. He pass'd after that into *Germany*, and in 1635. was in the Battels of *Hautremant*, *Vaudrevange*, and *Leffons*; and the next Year at the Relief of *Colmar*, *Schellestat*, and *Hagueneau*. He assited at the Siege of *Landrecy*, and at the Battel of *Pont de Vaux* in 1637. The next Year going to *Piedmont*, he reliev'd *Verceilli*, and was afterwards at the Siege of *Chivas*. About that time he was made *Mestre de Camp* of the Regiment of Guards, and in that quality serv'd at the Siege of *Arras*. The King made him Lieutenant-General of the Army; and in 1641. he took *Aire*, *la Bassé*, and *Papaume*.

So many considerable Services determin'd his Majesty to honour him with the Bâton of Marechal of France the 22d of September in the same Year. 'Tis true, the Year following he

he was worsted at *Honnecourt*; but such Disgraces are common to the greatest Captains, whose Valour cannot hinder the Fortune of War. He made himself extreamly remarkable at the Battel of *Fribourg*, and at the taking of *Philisbourg* in 1644. and particularly at the Siege of *Savernes*, where four brave Gentlemen, viz. *Sercane*, *Bidault*, *Camin*, and *Seronet* were kill'd near him, fighting. He was taken at the Battel of *Nordlingen* in 1645. and did very great Service at the Siege of *Lerida*, and at the Battel of *Lens* in 1648. During all the time that our Domestic Troubles continu'd, he shew'd an exact Fidelity, and did very great Services to the State. The King (in 1657.) sent him Abassador Extraordinary to the Diet held at *Francfort* for the Election of Emperor; and two Years afterwards sent him into *Spain* to demand *Maria Theresa*, Infanta of *Spain*, in Marriage with his Majesty. 'Tis incredible what Honour he did to *France* in these two Ambassies, by his Grandeur and Generosity; his Wit, his Figure, and a certain superior Air, secur'd him immediately the Hands and Hearts of all those he had to do with. In 62. The King made him Knight of his Orders, and Duke and Peer the Year following.

He was Collonel of the Regiment of Guards, and in that quality follow'd the King to the Campagne in *Flanders* in 1667. where he had the pleasure to see his Master conduct his Army himself, and perform the Trade of War with more Art and Capacity than was ever practis'd by any of his Captains and Generals.

He died at *Bayonne* the 12th of July 78. aged 74 Years. He was a Lord of extraordinary

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nary Merit, honest, generous, a good Friend, as handsom in Person as 'twas possible, agreeable in Speaking, graceful in Rallying, and furnish'd with all the Qualities that constitute the Character of *a truly Great Lord*. He was one of those Men who *do* more Honour every where, than 'tis possible for 'em to receive.

As he understood almost all the Languages of *Europe*, he gave Foreigners a marvellous Impression of our Nation; and it may be said that there seem'd a whole Court in his single Person. He was Magnificent in his Retinue, his Equipage always handsom and in good order. He gave Penfions to several Gentlemen, and did every thing like himself; Qualities, which have been known to all the World, and so much the more admir'd as that there hath scarce been any Nobleman since him who has carry'd it after the same manner.

He marry'd (in 1634.) *Frances Margarete de Chivré*, Niece to *Cardinal Richelieu*, Daughter of *Hector, Lord du Plessis, Frusé and Rabestan*, and of *Mary de Cevau*, by whom he had *Armand Count de Guiche*, Lieutenant-General of the King's Army, one of the wittiest, learnedest, bravest, most meritorious Lords of the whole Court; who after he had signaliz'd himself in several Actions, and particularly in the Passage of the *Rhein* in *June 1672*. died in *December* following. He had afterwards *Anthony-Charles de Gramond Duke of Louvigny*, now Duke of *Gramont*.

*Marechal*

## Maresch. Luxembourg.

**F**rancis Henry de Montmorency, Count de Bouteville, was born the 4th Jan. 1628. I shall not stay here to give his Genealogy ; it is sufficiently known to all the World ; besides, it would take up the place I ought to reserve for the Great Actions of his Life.

In the Year 1647. He made his first Campagne in Catalonia under Monsieur the late Prince, and his second in Flanders in 1648. under the same Prince. He was at the Siege of Ypres, and from thence at the famous Battel of Lenz, which gave so great a lustre to the beginning of the Reign we live under. The Affection he had for the Person of Monsieur the Prince, to whom he had the honour to be nearly related, caus'd him to stay at Paris during the Barri-cades. He was in the Action of Charenton, one of the sharpest and most dangerous of those Times. The Prince being arrested and sent Prisoner to Bois de Vincennes, he rais'd at his own charge a Company of 100 Horse, with which he went to Nancy to join M. de Longueville and Turenne, and serv'd this Campagne under the latter, against Mareschal d'Hoquincoeur. He was wounded and made Prisoner at the Battel of Rhetel. After the enlargement of the Princes of Condé and Con-ty, The Prince being again embroil'd with

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the Court, Monsieur de Luxembourg, then Count de Bouteville, who had not above 500 Men with him as well Soldiers as Boors, kept in *Bellegarde* against 15000 Men, regular Troops, which M. d'Espernon, then Governor of *Burgundy*, employ'd upon that Siege, with 25 Pieces of Cannon and 2 Mortars; and came off with an honourable Capitulation, after 32 days Siege, and 28, Trenches open'd.

He marry'd in 1660 to *Magdelain Charlotte-Bonna-Theresa de Clermont*, Dutchesf of *Luxembourg*, whose Name he join'd to his own. In 68. He entred into the Town of *Salins* the same Day that *Besangon* open'd its Gates to *Monsieur* the Prince. In 72. He march'd to the Relief of *Woerden*, besieged by the Prince of *Orange*, tho' the Enemy were by much the stronger, and had nothing to do but to defend themselves by the Trenches through which he was oblig'd to pass to come at 'em. However, he attack'd 'em in their Post, and oblig'd 'em to raise the Siege, after as desperate a Conflict perhaps as ever happen'd. Some short time after, he made his Army take a March of 26 Hours upon the Ice, tho' almost impracticable by reason of a Thaw that had begun; which yet hindred him not from going to drive Count *Koningsmark* from *Bodengrave*.

In 1674. He was at the Battel of *Seneff*, where he signaliz'd himself by so many Actions of Bravery, that the next Year the King gave him the Bâton of Mareschal of *France*. In 1677. He invested *Valenciennes*, and was afterwards at the Battel of *Cassel*, where under the Orders of the King's Only Brother, he perform'd Actions worthy of the Encomiums he receiv'd upon 'em.

*Charleroy*

Charleroy being Invested by the Prince of Orange's Troops, the Siege was rais'd upon the first report of his March, such terrible impressions did his approach make upon the Enemy.

The King having given him the Command of his Army ; He won, towards the end of this Campagne, the Battel of St. Denis, where being engag'd to Fight in a difficult Ground, (in confidence of a Treaty of Peace) he had occasion for all his Valour and all his Experience to vanquish a politic Enemy, who had attack'd him with so much Advantage. In 1690. He Commanded the King's Army in Flanders ; where, after having routed part of the Enemy's Horse, (which he pursu'd with a great deal of loss on their side, within view of their Army) he won the next day the famous Battel of Fleurus, which gave so much Reputation to the Arms of the King, and which was the happy presage of all the Successes wherewith that War was follow'd. The Enemy lost in this Battel 6000 Men killed upon the spot, 5000 wounded, 3900 Prisoners, above 100 Colours or Standards, and 72 Pieces of Canon.

In 1691. He gave the Battel of Leuze, where the Enemy being push'd into their Mottes, and returning a fourth time to the Charge with 72 Squadrons against 25, were entirely put to the rout, after having lost 1500 Men kill'd in the Field of Battel, and 40 Prisoners.

The Yeat following, he gain'd the Battel of Steinkirk, tho' the Enemy had 20000 Foot more than he. The Fight was very obstinate ; But Monsieur de Luxembourg having made part

of his Infantry put Sword in Hand, the Enemy were driven with so much vigor, that above 6000 were kill'd on the spot, the rest fled to the Woods, where they were pursu'd for a League together, and a great number of 'em made Prisoners.

The Success which Mareschal *Luxembourg* had the following Year, was yet more considerable. The Enemy, entrench'd in their Camp as in a Citadel, were forc'd with so much resolution in their Entrenchments, that notwithstanding their long Resistance, they saw themselves at length constrain'd to quit the Field of Battel, all cover'd over with their Dead and Wounded. The terror was so *general*, that the Enemy's Troops sought their Safety in their flight; but were pursu'd with so much vigor, that part of 'em drown'd themselves in the *Gerre*, and the other sav'd themselves not without a great deal of difficulty.

In fine, Monsieur de *Luxembourg* made his last Campagne in 1694, under the Orders of the *Dauphin*, who prevented the Enemy at the Passage of the *Scheld*, by a March so long and so glorious, that it can never be enough admir'd. He fell sick towards the latter end of December of the same Year, and died, Cover'd with Glory, the 4th of *January* 1695.

Tho' Mareschal *Luxembourg* possess'd all the Qualities of a great Captain in a very eminent degree, yet it must be agreed, that his *Intrepidity in Dangers*, and a full *Tranquillity of Mind* in the midst of the greatest Tumult of an Army, were most conspicuous in him: He seem'd at that time superior to himself, and saw all things best, either to take his Advantages

tages, or to carry quick Relief to the places that wanted it; Virtues, very rare in the greatest Men, and reserv'd only for Heroes; exactly conformable therein to the great Prince of Condé, whom he took for his Pattern.

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*JOHN de GASSION,  
Mareschal of France.*

*John de Gassion*, fourth Son of *James de Gassion*, second President in the Parliament of *Pau*, was born the 20th of *August*, *Anno 1609*.

The Profession of Arms is the common Lot of younger Brothers in that Province, but the Person I speak of, embrac'd it more through *natural Inclination* than *order of Birth*. In 1625. He was receiv'd (being yet but 16 Years of Age) into the *Gen' d'Armeric* of the Prince of *Piedmont*. He served under the Duke of *Rohan*, in the Year 1627. and the two following during the Wars of Religion. A Peace being concluded at *Alais*, he went again into *Piedmont* to the Siege of *Pignerol*, and to the Battel of *Viellant*. About this time, the reputation of the Great *Gustavus*, King of *Sweden*, call'd him into *Germany*, where he serv'd in his Troops, and gave so many marks of Valour under the very Eyes of that Monarch, that he won his Esteem, as also that of all the Great Captains of his Army. He was made Colonel of a Regiment of Horse, and was in that quality at the taking of *Donawert*, *Ausbourg*, *Ingolstat*, and the Battel of *Lutzen*, where the King of *Sweden* was kill'd in the Arms of *Victory*.

*Gory.* He lost a great deal by the death of that Prince, who honour'd him with his Friendship and Conversation. He might have rais'd him to the greatest Posts, penetrated as he was with his Merit and his great Capacity in the Art of War.

Being come back to France the beginning of the Year 1635. he serv'd under the D. de la Force in Lorain, where he defeated 1400 Men in three several Engagements, carry'd off the Baron Clinchamp, took Charmes, Neuchastel, and several other Towns. In the Year 1636. He was at the Battel of Ravon, and afterwards at the Siege of Dole. Next Year, he desear-ed the Spaniards in several Rencounters. He signaliz'd himself at the taking of Hosdin, and at the Battel of St. Nicolas in 1639. at the taking of Aire in 1641. then at the Battel of Rocroy, and the Siege of Thionville, where he was dangerously wounded. If he was Brave, he was no less Fortunate; Victory always went over to his side. In 1645. The King gave him the Bâtoon of Mareschal of France, with the applause and jey not only of all the Soldiery, but of all France, who expected and wish'd (more than he did) that mark of Honour so rightfully due to the importance and great number of his Services. In 1642. He was wounded at the Siege of Gravelines; afterwards he contributed very much to the taking of Fort Mardick, the Towns of Link, Beau-bourg, Bethune, St. Venant, Courtray, Furnes, and Dunkirk. He defeated 2000 Spaniards at the Battel call'd d'Estaires. He besieг'd Lom's in the Year 1647, where after several Attacks, being inform'd that the Enemy had made near

his Lodgment a Palisade, he immediately commanded the Pioneers to pull up the Stakes ; but every body telling him that the thing was very difficult, because of the continual Fire the Enemy made from their Courtine, he would go thither himself ; and to encourage the Men by his own Example, he went up to the very Palisade ; where trying to shake one of the Stakes to pull it up, he receiv'd a Musket-shot in the Head, with which he fell. They carry'd him to *Arras*, where he died the 2d of October 1647. four Days after the Wound.

His Body was carry'd to *Charenton*, for he had the misfortune to be of the pretended Reform'd Religion. The great Qualities of this Mareschal, and particularly his extream Intrepidity, are no less astonishing than the prodigious number of the Actions he has perform'd. To see him always Successful in so many bold and perillous Exploits, 'twas difficult to comprehend that he was not something above Man, and no less to believe that one Man could Achieve so much.

One of the most remarkable things observ'd in the War in *Flanders*, is, That Mareschal *de Gassion* did not lose one Place of the *Lis* during a whole Winter in the midst of the Enemy, and surrounded with all their Forces much superior to his ; but he drove 'em from his Neighbourhood, went in quest of 'em beyond the *Scheld*, and left 'em no way of returning into the Towns, and on the other side that River. Those who were acquainted with this Mareschal's Genius, and the Springs of his War-like Motions, have observ'd, that what he seem'd to do by chance and against the Rules of War,

War, was undertaken and carry'd on by a most consummate Prudence, and a result of Reasonings, built upon a most exact knowledge he had of the present State of the Enemy, their Force and his, the Confusion they were under, the nature of the Road he was to pass or repass, which made him answer an Officer, who was representing to him the Difficulty or rather the Impossibility there was of making his Retreat, *That he had in his Head, and wore at his Side, what should surmount that pretended Impossibility.*

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*Abraham*

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## *Abraham de Fabert, Mareschal of France.*

Some Men are born with such Faculties, and perform such extraordinary things, that the common sort of People (unable to conceive that what they see should come within the strength of humane Nature) have recourse to *Genii* and Familiar Spirits, to which they attribute what is only the effect of a singular Ingenuity, or a consummate Wisdom.

After this manner was *Socrates* treated by Antiquity, and the same has happen'd to him whose Elogium I undertake.

*Abraham de Fabert* was born at *Metz*, and was at first design'd either for the *Church* or the *Bar*; but as soon as he was sent to School, he gave all possible marks of his aversion for Study. No manner of Books pleas'd him but Romances; and had it not been for this Inclination, it had been difficult to have taught him to Read. His Father was fain to consent to the desire he had of following the profession of Arms, being persuaded that a Child never succeeds better in any Employ, than what he chooses himself. He enter'd in the Regiment of Guards at the Age of Thirteen, in the Company of Mons. *de Carmagnole*. For five Years and an half that he was in the Regiment of Guards,

Guards, he perform'd with an extream exactness all the Duties of a Soldier. He did not content himself with mounting the Trenches when he was upon the Guard, he offer'd himself on other Days to the Engineers to serve 'em in Admeasurements, &c.

He liv'd with so much Frugality, that his Pay suffic'd to keep him handsomly. He would never receive any thing beyond it, neither from his Captain, nor his Father, to whom he was resolv'd to be no farther chargeable.

When he quitted the Regiment of Guards, the D. of *Espérone* gave him the Colours in the Regiment of *Piedmont*. About that time the Majorship of the Regiment of *Rambure* falling vacant, Monsieur *de Rambure*, who knew his Merit, gave it him, and recommended him so advantageously to the King, that his Majesty was extreamly pleas'd in hearing him talk of the Affairs of War, and particularly upon the Exercise of the Infantry. Monsieur *de Fabert*, to give a more lively representation of the thing, had little Figures (made) of Soldiers, which he caus'd to move according to the Orders and Command he gave.

The King having made choice of four Majors throughout his Infantry, to give 'em each a Company, Monsieur *de Fabert* was the first named. What he did at the famous Retreat of *Mayence*, has been compar'd to the Retreat of *Xenophon's* Ten thousand; for he sav'd all the King's Army from being attack'd by the Emperor's (which was much superior) without the loss hardly of one Man. Being wounded at the taking of *Turin* with a Musket-shot in the Thigh, very dangerously, but not so as to quit

quit the Fight, because the Bone was not broken, he carry'd on the Attack of the Barricade, which he had undertaken to force, and retir'd not till he saw almost all his Men kill'd round him. The Wound appear'd such, that all the Chirurgeons concluded he must have his Thigh cut off. The Cardinal *de la Vallette*, (to whom the King had given Monsieur *Fabert* for *Aid de Camp*) and Monsieur *de Turenne*, conjured him to suffer the Operation. No, says he to 'em, *I must not die by piecemeal, Death shall have me entire, or not at all, and perhaps still I may escape her.* This said; he caus'd several earthen Pans of Milk and Cream to be brought to him, and after he had soak'd some old Linen in 'em, he apply'd the same to his Wound, and was cur'd in a few Days. *Vallette* dying about that time, Cardinal *de Richelieu* pray'd to be admitted for his Friend, in the place of him he had lost, knowing how agreeable he was to the King, and that whatever he propos'd to him was better receiv'd, than from any other hand whatever. Afterwards he trusted him with several secret Affairs, wherein he was of opinion he could do him very important Services.

The King having given him the Government of *Sedan*, he caus'd Fortifications to be made to it of an unparallel'd Solidity, and with such good Husbandry, that the King never had any Place better fortify'd, and with so little Expence. He had dug at his own charge the Fort at the head of the Horn-Work towards the Palatinate. And when his Family represented to him, *That he was spending an Estate which he ought to preserve*

preserve for them. If, says he, I could prevent a Place (the King has intrusted to me) from falling into the Enemies hands, tho' it were by planting my own Person, my Family, and all my Estate, in the Breach, I would not debate a moment to do it.

The King, willing to reward so many Services, gave him a Mareschal's Bâtoon, which, far from inspiring him with Pride, made him yet more condescending, more candid, and more accessible. His Modesty was so great, that when the King (about the Year 1661.) would have honour'd him with the Collar of his Order, he scrupled to accept of it, persuaded, that none but Gentlemen of an ancient Nobility could wear it justly.

He wrote a Letter of Thanks to his Majesty; yet his Family complain'd of the Injury he did 'em, and represented to him that his Grandfather had been *Ennobled* by the Duke of Lorain, and that his Father always bore the Quality of Gentleman. The King sent him the following Answer, written with his own Hand.

MONSIEUR,

" I cannot say whether it be with more E-  
" steem or Pleasure that I have seen by your  
" Letter of the 7th Instant, the exclusion you  
" give your self of the Blue Ruban with which  
" I had resolv'd to honour you. This rare  
" Example of Probity, seems to me so admir-  
" able, that I am constrain'd to own to ye,  
" I look upon it as an Ornament of my Reign.  
" But withal, I am very sensibly concern'd to  
" see a Man (who by his Valour and Fideli-  
" ty

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" ty is so deservedly advanc'd to the first Of  
" fices of my Crown) depriving himself of  
" this mark of Honour by an Obstacle which  
" ties up my Hands. Wherefore, not being  
" able to do any thing *more* to render Justice  
" to your Worth, I shall assure you at least  
" by these Lines, *That* there can never be  
" granted a Dispensation more gladly than  
" *that* I would send to you, (of my own pro-  
" per motion) if it might be done without  
" overthrowing the Foundation of my Orders,  
" And *That* those (on whom I am going to be-  
" stow the Collar) can never receive from it  
" more lustre, *in the World*, than *your Refu-*  
" *sal* of it from so Generous a Principle gives  
" you with *Me*. I pray God to have you,  
" my Cousin, in his holy and worthy Protec-  
" tion. At *Paris* the 29th of *December*  
" 1661.

Sign'd

LOUIS.

He died the 17th of May 62. aged 63 Years,  
and in the manner he always wish'd ; that is  
to say, without Witnesses, and without being  
made a Spectacle of. *I will not*, says he, *at*  
*that time see about me a Family Grieving*,  
*Friends and Domestics Weeping*. It gives great  
*Distractions*. In those Moments we cannot be  
too much collected within our selves, to beg  
Pardon of God with all our Heart, and with  
all our Strength. 'Tis thus I wish to make my  
Exit, without entertaining any Body with the  
shew of it.

Finding

Finding himself very Weak, he ask'd for his Prayer-Book; and his Curtains being drawn, a little time after he was found upon his Knees Dead, and his Book open at the Psalm, *Miserere mei Deus.*

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*Abraham,*

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*Abraham du Quesne,  
Lieutenant-General of the  
Naval Armies of France.*

**T**HIS is a Question hard to decide, Whether *Nature* or *Art* did most contribute to illustrate the excellent Man I'm going to speak of. He had a Constitution strong and robust, proof against the roughest Labours of the Sea and of War, with a vast Activity of Spirit, which easily discover'd what was *good* in any thing, and knew how to make advantage of all Examples. He understood the Art of Navigation and Fighting by Sea in all its Parts; so that there was ne'er an Officer of a Ship, but would own himself outdone by him in the exercise of his own proper Station.

He was born in *Normandy* in the Year 1610. of a Noble Family, that had been of a long standing in that Province. His Father, whose Name was also *Abraham du Quesne*, was a noted Sea-Captain, who being sent into *Sweden* by *Louis the XIII.* upon some Affairs of the Marine, was taken in his return by the *Spaniards* in an unequal Fight, where he receiv'd a Wound, of which he died at *Dunkirk* in the Year 1635. 'Twas under him his Son began to learn the Trade of War. For in 1627.

at the time the King was projecting the Siege of *Rochelle*, the Father, who was a Hugonot, having desir'd not to Serve in the Ships which were design'd to attack that Place; and being sent elsewhere, the Son not above 17 Years of Age Commanded on Board one of these Vessels, and rejoic'd his Father extreamly by his Actions of Valour and Prudence above his Age.

Having serv'd the King for Threescore Years without intermission, and gone through all the Posts from Captain to that of Lieutenant-General, it would be impossible to report in this place all the Rencounters wherein he signaliz'd himself. It will suffice to take notice of the principal. In the Year 1637. He was one of the first at the Attack of the Isles of *St. Margaret*. In 1638. He was present in the Fight against the Naval Army of *Spain* before *Gat-tari*, where he contributed very much to the Retreat of that Army. In 1639. He receiv'd a Musket-shot at the taking of *Rede*, and the Port of *St. Antonis*. He was also dangerously wounded before *Tarragone* in 1641. and before *Barcelona* in 1642. when *Perpignan* was taken. He had the like Accident in 1643. at the Battel which happen'd at the *Cape du Gates* against the *Spanish* Army. The Year following, He went to serve in *Sweden*, where his Name was already known, because of the Services his Father had perform'd there. He was immediately made Major-General of the Naval Army, and afterwards Vice-Admiral. In this Quality he serv'd in the famous Battel where the *Danes* were entirely Defeated, and he was the second Man who boarded and took their Admiral-ship, where in the fury of the Engagement the General

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neral of the Danish Army was kill'd. The King of Denmark had been made Prisoner there, if he had not been oblig'd to quit the Ship by reason of a Wound in his Eye, occasion'd by a Splinter in levelling a Canon the Day before the Battel.

Monsieur *du Quesne* was recall'd to France in 1647. This Year and the following he Commanded one of the Squadrons that were sent upon the Expedition of *Naples*. The Marine of France being very much fallen from its first Figure during the King's minority, he arm'd out several Ships at his own Charge in 1651. upon occasion of the first Motions of *Bourdeaux* to carry Succours to the Royal Army, which was Blockading that City. He was met in the way by an English Squadron, which would have oblig'd him to strike the Flag. The Encounter was very obstinate, and he dangerously wounded. Yet tho' much inferior in Strength, he came off very gloriously. He was forc'd to go refit his Ship at *Brest*, from whence he renew'd his Course to *Bourdeaux*, without staying for the perfect Cure of his Wounds. The Army of *Spain* arriv'd in the River at the same time with him, but he got in, maugre the whole Army. This fortunate Temerity was one of the principal causes of the Surrender of the Place. The Queen Regent (as an earnest of her Acknowledgment till such time as she could reimburse him for the Arment he had made) gave him the Castle of the Isle of *Andred* in *Bretagne*, which was of his Domaine. Every one of these Expeditions have done Monsieur *du Quesne* a great deal of Honour; But what compleated the Fulness of

his Glory, was, The happy Success of the Wars of Sicily. The Courage of the French had been always known; but the World was not persuaded of their Capacity for Naval Expeditions. 'Twas believ'd the Great Ruyter, that Thunder-bolt of the Ocean, would destroy in the Mediterranean all the Glory the Marine had acquir'd under the Conduct of Mons. du Quesne. Yet the Dutch were worsted in three several Engagements, with Ruyter at their Head; Monsieur du Quesne (tho' inferior) beat 'em, and kill'd with a Canon-shot that General so Famous and so Formidable. It had been taken notice of, that Ruyter said several times, *He fear'd nothing but Monsieur du Quesne.*

The Ships of Tripoli (then at Hostilities with France) were retir'd into the Port at Chio; as a safe Sanctuary under one of the principal Fortresses of the Grand Seignior, where they were protected by a Captain Bashaw at the Head of 22 Galleys: Mons. du Quesne thunder'd upon 'em with a Squadron of six Ships, and having block'd 'em up a long time, oblig'd the Corsaires to conclude a Peace, very Honourable for France. Afterwards he forc'd Algier and Genoa to implore the King's Mercy. Asia, Africa and Europe have seen the Effects of his Valour, and an infinite number of Christians whom he set at Liberty in his several Expeditions, are assured Testimonies of the Greatness and Generosity of his Soul. He was born and died a Hugonot. 'Tis not to be doubted, (had it not been for this obstacle to his Fortune) but that the King (who honour'd his Merit with a particular Esteem) would have rewarded him in a more conspicuous manner than he did

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during the whole course of his Life; tho' he gave him a very illustrious mark of his Favour, when he made him a Grant of 300000 Livres to purchase an Estate, which was that of *Bouchet* near *Estantes*. A very fine agreeable Territory, which his Majesty erected into a Marquisat under the Name *du Quesne*, instead of *Bouchet*, to make his Name immortal, as it deserves to be.

He died the 2d of February 1688. after having liv'd 78 Years in perfect Health and Strength. He marry'd *Gabrielle de Berniere*, by whom he left 4 Sons, all worthy of so noble a Father.

**HON-**

## HONORIUS D'URFÉ, Knight of Maltba.

THO' Romances are of immemorial Antiquity, and Narrations of fabulous Adventures no less ancient than true Histories, Monsieur D'Urfé may perhaps be look'd upon as an Original in that kind of Romance which he has left us. Almost all others, except those which have been made since, recount the Adventures of only one Hero, or of several Heroes of the same stamp : His is a Picture of all the Conditions of human Life. You see Kings, Princes, Courtiers, and plain Shepherds whose Customs and innocent Employments he paints in so genuine a manner, that the Idea he gives of 'em has charm'd not only all France, but all Europe, for above these 50 Years. Whatever Veneration we are oblig'd to have for the admirable Poems of Homer, which have been the Delight of all Ages, yet I believe it may be said, That to consider 'em on the score of Invention, Manners, Characters ; D'Urfy's *Astrea*, tho' Prose, deserves no less the Name of a Poem, and not in the least inferior to Homer's. This is what has been the judgment of very learned Men, and those too who have been very much prepossess'd for the Ancients against the Moderns.

*Honorius D'Urfé*, Cadet of the illustrious House of *D'Urfé* in the Province of *Forez*, had two Brothers; the Eldest marry'd the Heiress of the House of *Chasteaumorant*; but the Marriage was afterwards declar'd Null, because of his Insufficiency. He became Priest, and died Dean of the Chapter of *St. John de Montbrison*, Prior of *Montverdun*. The second was Master of the Horse to the Duke of *Savoy*, and liv'd to be above 100 Years Old. He of whom I am now to speak, was Knight of *Maltha*, and discharg'd the Devoirs of his Profession with all the Bravery and all the Exactness it could require. Yet it is not so much upon this account, tho' very Honourable and Glorious, that we are oblig'd to put him in the number of our Illustrious; it is principally for the sake of the beauty and fertility of his Genius, which appears with so much splendor in the Romance he has left us, that we are forc'd to do him this justice.

This Romance is not meerly such, 'tis an Enigmatical Contexture of the principal Adventures of the Author. Before he set out for his Station at *Maltha*, where he remain'd for several Years together, He had conceiv'd a Love for Madmoitelle *de Chasteaumorant*, sole Heiress of her Family, beautiful, rich, and haughty; but of that noble Haughtiness which is commonly inspir'd by great Virtues. In his absence she was marry'd to his eldest Brother. It was a Political Marriage. The Houses of *D'Urfé* and *Chasteaumorant*, the two greatest of the whole Province, were always at enmity with one another, and their Interests had divided all the Nobility of the Country; so that

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the Parents on both sides were glad by this Alliance to dry up the Source of the Quarrels and Misfortunes which might happen every Moment. D'Urfé at his return from *Maltha*, found his Mistress marry'd to his Brother. Still he could not cease to love her, and in all likelihood he was not ignorant of the secret Defect of his Brother, who after ten Years open Marriage, confess'd his Impotence. The Chevalier D'Urfé obtain'd a Dispensation of his Vows; and, after he had surmounted several Difficulties, espous'd Madmoiselle de Chasteau-morant.

These Adventures gave occasion to those of *Celadon*, *Silvander*, *Astrea* and *Diana*, who are the mystical Images of 'em. Divers other Adventures of Persons of the best Quality at Court in his time, have also furnish'd Matter for the ingenious construction of his Romance.

Tho' this Work (as likewise all others of the same kind) are not of any very great Solidity, and scarce deserve to be read by those who seek for nothing but instruction in Sciences, or to store their Mind with Precepts of an exact and severe Morality; nay, even tho' it may not be deny'd, that the reading of 'em is dangerous, especially for young Persons, who being naturally inclin'd to taste of the charms of Love, are also allur'd to it by the Examples they see of that Passion; so much the more dangerous as it is there free from all sorts of Impurities. However, since the Ancients have valu'd themselves greatly in having Authors excellent in those sort of Works, and that it is pretended they have bore away the Prize from all others of the following Ages; I was of opinion

88 *Illustrious Men of France,*

that what our Age has produc'd Fine in this kind of Writing, might also partake of the same Esteem; it being certain, that the Manners and Characters of the Romance of *Astrea*, are done with no less art and advantage than those of all the ancient Poets. There only wants a certain *Venerableness*, stamp'd by Antiquity, which always redoubles the value of the Works she consecrates.

CLAUDE

*CLAUDE BERBIER  
du METZ,  
Lieutenant-General of the  
King's Armies.*

THE Person whose Elogium I undertake, carry'd upon his Visage such apparent marks of his Valour, that we could not refuse him the Testimonies we are going to give of it.

He was wounded in the Face by a Cannon-shot, which so dash'd out all his Features, that 'twas almost impossible to know him again: But the Deformity occasion'd by this Wound, had no ill grace in a Man of the Sword, and even spread upon his Person a kind of a *Noble Roughness*, which abundantly made up the loss of the good Aspect and agreeable Air destroy'd by that Accident. He was born at Rosnay in Champagne the first day of April 1638. From his greenest Years, he gave signs of the inclination he had for all the Exercises befitting a Gentleman, and the profession of Arms, which his Father (Treasurer of Casual Forfeitures) had quitted in the Year 1632. and which his brave Son took up so soon as he had Strength enough to undergo the Fatigues of it.

He

He made his first Campagne in the Regiment of *Meilleraye* in 1654. and the second in the same Regiment; but this Course seeming too tedious to give occasions to distinguish himself, he pray'd the Marquis de *Meilleraye* to put him into the Body of Artillery, which is attended with more frequent opportunities of Danger and Undauntedness. Mons. *Meilleraye* made him Commissary of Artillery; and it was in the execution of that Post (*An. 1657.*) he receiv'd the Blow I mention'd before. The King was concern'd for him, and gave him a Pension of 500 Crowns. This Wound was above 18 Months in curing, and made him miss the Campagne of 58. which is the only one wherein he did not serve, from his first entrance to his death. In 1663. He was Commanded for the Siege of *Marsal*, but that had no effect. In 1664. He was also commanded into *Italy*, but he went no farther than to *Grenoble*, the Pope having resolv'd to give the King all the satisfaction he could desire.

In 1667. He serv'd in the Sieges of *Tournay*, *Douay*, and *Isle*. This last held but nine or ten Days; but it was memorable for a great many resolute Actions that happen'd there. Monsieur de la Motte *Fenelon* reported to the King,  
" That he saw a young Officer of the Artillery,  
" named *du Metz*, who had planted a Bat-  
" tery near the Counterscarp, with fourscore  
" Swiss, whom he had demanded for that  
" Work; and that he brought off but ten of  
" 'em, (all the rest being either kill'd or woun-  
" ded, round him) without shewing the least  
" concern or astonishment.

This

This Action, join'd to the Application which had been taken notice of in him for every thing which concerned the Artillery, got him (in 1668.) the Lieutenantcy General in Flanders, Artois, Haynault, Pais-Conquis and Reconquis. And in 71. His Majesty added Picardy, Lorain, and Luxembourg. The War which began in 1672. against the Hollanders, furnish'd him with opportunities of signalizing himself, having commanded the Artillery in all the considerable Sieges that were made during the seven Years of this War.

He distinguisht himself particularly at the Siege of Mastricht in 78. At the Battel of Seneff, where he was wounded; at the Siege of Cambray, and that of Valenciennes, where he was the first General-Officer that enter'd the Place, and made the Garrison lay down their Arms; He took Prisoner the Count de Lumbre, and seven or eight Persons of Quality, whose Horses and Equipages he saved. He commanded the Artillery in the Sieges of Gand and Ypres, and afterwards at the Battel of St. Dennis, which was the last Action of this War; and was wounded there in the Thigh with two Musket-shot. He was made Marechal de Camp in 1676; and having given extraordinary proofs of his Valour and his Capacity in the service and command of the Artillery, he put it into a condition it was never in before, by making it serve almost with the same diligence as the Musquetry. The King order'd him to stay in Flanders, to do the Duty of Lieutenant-General of the Artillery in all the Provinces of his appointment, and gave him for that purpose the Government of the Citadel of Isle, one

one of the most honourable and most important in the Kingdom. In 1684. The King gave him the Government of the Town and Castle of *Gravelines*, and all the Forts depending upon it.

In 1688. The King made him Lieutenant-General of his Armies. In 1689. He serv'd in the Army commanded by Mareschal *d'Humieres*; and in 90. in that of Mareschal *Luxembourg*. 'Twas this Campagne which gave the famous Battel of *Fleurus*, wherein the Person (I'm speaking of) discharging his Duty, perhaps, with a little too much Heat, and pursuing the Enemy at all Adventures, was kill'd by a Musket-shot in the Head.

He was lamented by his own Kindred and Dependants, as also by the Soldiers, Officers, and the King himself; who speaking of him to Monsieur *du Metz*, his Brother, (now President in the Chamber of Accounts) *You have a great loss*, said his Majesty to him, *but I suffer a much greater, because of the difficulty I shall have to fill up his Place.*

One day Madam the *Dauphiness* perceiving him at Dinner with the King, she whisper'd, *What a frightful ugly Man there was! — And I, said the King, think him a very handsome One: He's one of the bravest Men in my Kingdom.*

Being of an affable, humain, generous Temper, and for doing good to every body, especially to religious Communities, and all Ecclesiastics, whom he protected and defended, to the utmost of his power, from the Disorders of Men of War; it is not credible to what degree he was belov'd throughout *Flanders*; nay, even in *Spanish Flanders*, the Governors where-

of

of had all the civility and all imaginable regard for him.

He was very regular in the conduct of his Life and Manners, very charitable to the Poor, and especially to poor Soldiers.

It was observ'd, that notwithstanding the Licence allow'd in War, he never suffer'd (among his People) any dispensation of Abstinence from Meats on Days forbidden by the Church.

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## SEBASTIAN

*SEBASTIAN de PON-  
TAULT, de BEAU-  
LIEU,* Engineer, and Mareschal *de  
Camp* of the King's Ar-  
mies.

THE strong propensity this Gentleman had for War, made him take Arms at fifteen Years of Age. It was at the famous Siege of Rochelle he began to shew himself. He gave there so many proofs of Courage, Conduct, and Intrepidity, that the King, without any other reason but that of his Merit, gave him a Post of Commissary of Artillery, notwithstanding he was so very Young. He continu'd the execution of this Place at the Sieges of Privas and Pignerol, and at the Battel of Veillant, where he was wounded with a Musket-shot in the Shoulder.

The Services he did in the Army of *Lorain*, commanded by the Duke of *Longueville*, induc'd his Majesty to make him Comptroller-General of the Artillery of the Army, and of *Lorain*. He serv'd in the Sieges of *Hesdin*, and the Year following in that of *Arras*, where in  
Fight

Fight against the Troops of Count de Bucquoy, he was run through the Body. This Accident got him also the Place of Provincial Comptroller of Artillery in the Country of Artois, which his Majesty bestow'd upon him with great Commendations. He was afterwards at the Siege and Taking of Aire, where the Actions he did, caus'd Monsieur Meilleraye to make choice of him to keep that Place, which he defended to the last extremity against the Enemy, to whom his vigorous Resistance made it a very dear Purchase.

He distinguish'd himself in such a manner at the Siege of Perpignau, that Monsieur the Prince, then Duke d'Enguier, who was an infallible Judge in Men of Merit, would have him near his Person, and made use of him in the great Battels of Rocroy, Thionville, and Philisbourg. In carrying on the Trenches at the Attack of this last Place, he had his right Arm taken off by a Cannon-ball. This Misfortune, capable of discouraging any Man less Valiant than Beaulieu, did not hinder him from prosecuting his Services in the following Campagnes, at the Battel of Nordlingen, the Sieges of Courtray, Berguen, Furnes, Mar-dike, and Dunkirk, where he had the sole direction of the Works in the Trenches. From thence he follow'd the Prince into Catalognia, where he caus'd Constantin and Salaw to be fortify'd. It may be truly said, that he had his share in all the Battels, Sieges, Marches, Assaults, &c which occur'd from the moment he was capable of bearing Arms, to the time when Old Age and his numerous Wounds put him

asleep

him out of condition to continue the same Services.

But his Zeal for his Prince being such as Labour and Fatigue could not lessen, he made it his study to be yet more useful for his Glory. He undertook to perpetuate the Victories and Prodigies of his Majesty's Reign. He Drew and gave afterwards to be Grav'd all the Sieges of Towns, the Rencounters, Battels, and generally all the Military Expeditions of this Reign, accompany'd with instructive Discourses, and an entire enumeration of all these wonderful Atchievements.

These Volumes are not only as the precious Records of the Prince's Glory, and *that* of the French Nation, but are Monuments capable of kindling the Courage of the less zealous for the Honour and Benefit of their Country. This Undertaking, wherein he spent above three-score thousand Livres of his own Estate, and which might have demanded much greater Strength than his to accomplish it, is however carry'd in some sort to its *last* perfection.

He died the 10th of August 1674. after the King had honour'd him with his Order of St Michael, and the Quality of Mareschal-General of his Armies. His death was no interruption to the Work; Madam des Roches, his Niece, not only had it continu'd with the same exactness and with the same expence, but has had the honour to dedicate and present it to the King, who (to shew how acceptable it was to him) gatify'd her with a considerable Pension.

Thos

Those who have a particular understanding in these sort of Works, are agreed, that there are few like it, whether for the Grandeur of the Undertaking, or for the exact representation of each event.

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H J A M.

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**JAM. de SOLEISEL,**  
Equerry to the King, &c.

**I**N the time of our Fathers, a Man must have gone to *Italy* to learn to Ride, as the only place which could perfect one in the exercises of Horsemanship. This fine Art, with all the others, has pass'd into *France*; and 'tis to us now that they come from all Parts of *Europe* to instruct themselves in the noble Science of Riding. *Pluvinel* was the first that carry'd it to a very high degree of perfection, having forgot nothing that might contribute to plant a Man well on Horseback, and to shew him the exact and graceful manner of performing all the devoirs of Manege. He of whom I'm now to speak, having observ'd that it was almost impossible to add any thing to the Precepts of this excellent Master, for the forming of a perfect Horseman, did particularly apply himself to the well Ordering the *Horse* it self, to study the Properties of this Creature, his Perfections, his Vices, his Maladies, and the Remedies proper to 'em; the different ways of breeding him, of mouthing him, of managing him; in a word, every thing that might serve to render him tractable, ready, and obedient to the least desire of the Rider.

*James*

James de Soleisel, Gentleman of the Province of Forest, Son of Matthew de Soleisel, Officer in the Scotch Gens d'Armes, was born in the Year 1617. upon an Estate of his named *le Clapier*, near the Town of St. Stephen. After he had compleated his Studies at Lyon with the Jesuits, he follow'd the Inclination he had for Horsemanship. He learnt to Ride under several famous Masters, particularly Monsieur *de Memon*, who improv'd him extreamly. Afterwards he took Lessons of Mons. *de Buades*, Equerry to Monsieur *de Longueville*, during the Negotiation of *Munster*, whither he had follow'd the Count *d'Avaux* to see Germany, and above all, to confer with Horse-Doctors, who are *there* as common as Men-Doctors in France. From thence, retiring into his Province, and having taken home to him several young Gentlemen, he employ'd himself in teaching 'em to manage the Great Horse, and made excellent Cavaliers of 'em. Mons. *Barnardi*, who has so very much distinguish'd himself in his Profession, and knew Mons. *Soleisel's* Merit, sent him word, that he had set up an Academy at Paris, and desir'd him to be his Assistant. He came, and 'tis well known in what reputation he fix'd this School of Address and Virtue.

He did not content himself with knowing for his private use all the Distempers incident to Horses, and all the Remedies to be apply'd to 'em, he was desirous that the knowledge he had of it might be for the benefit of the Public. For which end, he compos'd a Book with the Title of, *The Compleat Farrier*, (Parfait Mareschal) whereof there has been five Editi-

100 *Illustrious Men of France,*

ons, and was perfectly well translated into *High Dutch* during his Life. Since his Death, it has been translated almost into all Languages. It is an Original, which comprising every thing that concerns Horses, has set aside all other Books that have treated upon that Subject.

He also compos'd a small Work, entitul'd, *The Methodical Farrier*, under the borrow'd Name of *la Bessée*, the Elector of Bavaria's E-querry, and at the same time, *A Dictionary of all the terms of Cavalry*.

The Conjunction of these two Books make one of the three Parts of the Book, call'd, *The Arts of the Man of the Sword*.

He hath also enlarg'd and improv'd the Duke of New-Castle's Book of Manege. He also left Memoirs upon the *Bitting* of Horses, whereof what he says in his *Compleat Farrier* is but a slight Sketch; and 'tis a public Misfortune, that Death suffer'd him not to put his last hand to this Work.

About 20 or 25 Years before he died, he left off the old method of Breaking Horses, (which till then he had practis'd) to make use of the D. of New-Castle's method, as finding it more concise and general; because according to *this* there is no Horse bnt may be capable of being broke at the Riding-House, whereas by the *other* a great many excellent Horses *cannot*.

He died suddenly in his Academy, the last Day of *January* 1680. aged 63 Years. He was of a Character serious, mixt with a Gayety which made his Acces and Conversation very agreeable. He had an engaging Wit, and the gift of making himself *fear'd* and *lov'd* by the Men of Quality who were in his Academy.

They

They all look'd upon him as their Father; and because there was always something to be learnt with him, he hardly went any where but was surrounded by a troop of young Gentlemen, as Kings are by their Courtiers. He was capable of Educating a Prince, and it has been said of him, That he could even have made a better Book of *The perfect honest Man*, than that of *The perfect Farrier*. He had a great deal of taste for the Sciences and for the Arts: He understood Music, and Painted agreeably. He was a Man of great Sense and good Counsel; resolute, intrepid, and of a Probity impregnable. These Moral Virtues were attended with *Christian* ones, which he practis'd during his whole Life.

H 3 MICH.

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## *MICH. de TELLIER,* Chancellor of *France.*

Here we may see, how far a good Head, Virtue and continual Application to one's Duty, may carry a Man in the Road of Honours and Dignities.

*Michael le Tellier* was born at *Paris* the 19th of *April* 1603. His Father, Counsellor in the Court of *Aydes*, behav'd himself with so much distinction, that they chose him to execute the business of Attorney-General during a long absence of him who had the Title of it. He was so careful to bring up his Son in the study of Polite Learning and the Law, that at the Age of 21, he merited to be made a Counsellor in the Great Council, before the time prescribed by the Ordonnances. He was afterwards the King's Attorney *au Chastelet*, and having exercis'd that Office with extraordinary Capacity, he was made Master of Requests, and nominated by *Louis XIII.* in the Year 1639. with Monsieur *Talon* Counsellor of State, to examine the proceedings which were made in *Normandy* against some Convicts of an Insurrection during the King's Journy into *Dauphiné*.

At his return from *Normandy*, he was made Intendant in *Piedmont*, where Monsieur *Mazarin* (who was not then invested with the Purple) judging

judging of his Merit by his management of Business, conceiv'd a very great Esteem and Friendship for him.

Monfieur *Mazarin* being made Cardinal in 1641, and Monfieur *des Noyers* who was Secretary of State, and had the Affairs of War in his Province, having voluntarily retir'd from Court in 1643. His Eminence propos'd to the late King, to let Mons. *le Tellier* have the executing that Office *by Commission*; which the King having consented to, he came from Piedmont to Court to act accordingly. Monsieur *des Noyees* dying a short time after, He was immediately invested *Titularly* in that Office, in the first Months of the King's Minority.

It was in him that the Queen-Mother and Cardinal *Mazarin* repos'd themselves the most of any thing in the World, during the difficult Times of that Minority. He alone staid at Paris with the late Duke of Orleans, during the Journies their Majesties made into Normandy, Burgundy and Guienne, with full power to countersign his Royal Highness's Orders, and even to dispatch 'em in the King's Name when he should judge it necessary for the furtherance of his Majesty's Affairs.

When the Troubles at Paris oblig'd Cardinal *Mazarin* to retire out of the Kingdom, the Queen-Mother was solicited to remove Monfieur *Tellier* also. She refus'd the Demand a long time, and he himself was fain to prefs her consent to his own Removal; preferring (through a Zeal, which has but few Examples) the Service and Interest of the State, to his own proper Fortune.

Being recall'd a short time after, he was charg'd solely with the weight of all Affairs, at that time vastly important and thorny. He was nevertheless so happy in his Management, that after several Conferences he had with the Duke of Orleans, this Prince sign'd a Treaty whereby he accepted the Amnesty, and consented to retire to his Appanage, and never to come to Court, without order from the King in Writing.

After this Negotiation, his Majesty honour'd him with the Office of Treasurer of his Orders, vacant by the death of Monsieur *de Chavigny*.

When Cardinal *Mazarin* went to St. John de Luz in 1659. to negotiate the Peace and the King's Marriage with *Maria Theresa*, Infanta of Spain, Monsieur *le Tellier* remain'd solely with the King, to keep Correspondence with the Cardinal, who directed to him all the Relations of the Conferences he had with *Don Louis d'Harо*, to give an account thereof to the King and Queen-Mother, and afterwards to transmit to him their Majesties Orders to finish that double Negotiation.

The King having resolv'd (in 1661. after the death of Card. *Mazarin*) to govern his Kingdom by himself, chose Monsieur *le Tellier* for one of his Chief Ministers, and in that quality he had the honour to assist at *all* the Councils that his Majesty held till 1677. when the King desiring to reward his long Services, rais'd him the 30th of October to the Chancellorship of France, which came vacant by the death of Chancellor *Aligre*. How great soever this Dignity is, it may be said, that the marks of Esteem with

with which the King gave it him, were Something more valuable than the Present it self.

He bestow'd himself entirely upon the exercise of this eminent Charge, persuaded, as he was often heard to say, *That not being able to judge every where, he was at least oblig'd to spread every where the Spirit of Justice, and to cause it to reign in all the Tribunals of the Monarchy.* It would be a tedious task to report all the great things he did for the good of the State : But we must not forget the Joy he testify'd when he seal'd the Revocation of the Edict of *Nantes*. He said, (after the Seal) That he would consent to die, now he had seen the Public Exercise of the pretended Reform'd Religion banish'd out of the Kingdom. And he did die a few Days after.

Death, which was announced to him by the Archbishop Duke *de Rheims* his Son, shook him not in the least ; He look'd him in the Face with a great deal of Constancy, without the least Ostentation, and with Sentiments of Piety and Humility very edifying, and not attended with any Weakness.

After he was fortify'd with the Sacraments, he died at *Paris* in the Arms of his Family the 30th of *October* 1685. with these Words in his Mouth, *Misericordias Domini in Æternum cantabo.* He was aged 82 Years, 6 Months, and 11 Days. Among the many Virtues he possess'd, those which were most conspicuous, and which more particularly made up his Character, were, Prudence, Vigilance, and Affability. He was always happy; above all in his Children : The Marquis *de Louvois*, who was his eldest Son, Minister and Secretary of State, did even excel him in  
his

his Assiduity and Vigilance: The second, Archbishop, Duke of *Rheims*, first Peer of *France*, Master of the King's Chapel, Commander of the Order of the H. Ghost, and Patron of *Sorbonne*, is (besides his great Learning) particularly commendable for the good Order and Discipline he has establish'd, and which he maintains throughout his Diocese. *Monsieur* the Chancellor had also a Daughter who was marry'd to *Monf. de Villequier*, now Duke *d'Autmont*, Peer of *France*, and First Gentleman of the Bed-Chamber to the King. She died in the Year 1668. The Marquis *de Barbezieux* (Secretary of State, Commander and Chancellor of the King's Orders, Grandson of the Chancellor, whose Elogium we have made, and Son of Marquis *de Louvois*) Treads in the glorious Steps of his Father and Grandfather.

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*John*

## John-Baptiste Colbert, Marquis de Seignelay.

HE was the eldest Son of Messire John-Baptiste Colbert, Minister and Secretary of State, who has been spoken of in the First Volume. When he had compleated his Studies, his Father, who in the midst of the greatest Affairs with which he was charg'd, had a continual care of the Education of his Children, sent him to Travel into *Italy*, and *England*, to begin to form his Mind, (which already promis'd very much) till such time as he could finish (himself) the instructing of him as much by his *Advice* as his own *Example*. Some time after his return, the King granted him the Place of Secretary of State in survivance of his Father, who presently began to disburthen upon him part of the *Détail* of the Marine. Having a superior Spirit, a great Memory, a marvellous Facility in Conceiving, in Speaking, and in Writing: The Instructions of such a Father soon put him into a condition of supporting the weight of all the Affairs of the Sea, *by himself*, and with an extream Capacity. Tho' the application with which he devoted himself thereto, had given occasion to a great many important Discoveries, for rendring the Marine so useful as it has been since; the greatness

ness of his Genius appear'd still more, when, succeeding Monsieur *Colbert*, he had to maintain the good Order, the Discipline, and so many fine Establishments which he found begun.

The King being resolv'd to chastise the *Genuese*, and the Enterprise appearing very difficult to execute, Monsieur *de Seignelay* was charg'd with his Orders, and the most ample Power that can be given to a Minister. He executed what had seem'd impossible, and the *Doge* with four Senators were oblig'd to come and make their Submissions to his Majesty, and receive such Conditions as he was pleas'd to grant them.

The *Corsaires* of *Tripoli*, and those of *Tunis*, had, contrary to the Faith of Treaties, taken some French Ships which were trading without precaution; and it was for the Honour and Interest of the Nation, that their Insolence should not go unpunish'd. The King conceiv'd the design of having 'em attack'd, and committed the execution to the Marquis *de Seignelay*. His Majesty's Orders were perform'd with so much success, that those two Republicks were constrain'd to beg Peace, and to accept of such an one as his Majesty impos'd upon 'em, and to make Restitution, one of 500000 Livres, and the other 240000 Livres, Damages to the *French*.

The *Corsaires* of *Algier*, whose City was bombard'd in 1683. were oblig'd the same Year to beg Peace of the King, to avoid the new Mischiefs which threaten'd them.

The Council of *Spain* had caus'd to be seiz'd in the *West-Indies*, the Merchandizes bought of

of the French. The King foreseeing the dangerous consequences of such a Violence, commanded the Marquis de Seignelay to fit out 40 Ships to oblige the Spaniards to do justice to the French. The Affair was directed with so much prudence and vigour, that without alarming the other Powers of Europe, (which were then in profound Peace) the Spaniards restor'd 1500000 Livres, to which the seizure of the Merchants Effects amounted; and the same was faithfully distributed to the Parties interested; the King contenting himself with the glory of having remedy'd the Oppression and Vexation of his Subjects.

The reputation of the King's Grandeur being carry'd by the Ships of France to the most distant Countries, engag'd the King of Siam to send, from the Extremities of Asia, a solemn Ambassy into France. His Majesty being of opinion, that it import'd him to make use of this Conjecture, directed the Marquis de Seignelay to cast the Foundations of a Treaty which might have render'd the Trade of the French in the East-Indies much superior to that of other Nations, if a Revolution which no human Prudence could foresee, had not prevented it.

The Algerines had begun again their Hostilities in 1687. He was resolv'd to humble them after such a manner, that there should be no more grounds to fear they would ever come to new Ruptures. The Success was such, that they were oblig'd in 1688. to submit to all the Conditions prescrib'd them by the King; and they have not since dar'd, even when the Naval Forces of France were employ'd elsewhere,

to

to violate the Peace which his Majesty was  
pleas'd to grant them.

The War which was kindled throughout Europe at the end of 1688, gave to the Marquis de Seignelay new Opportunities of exhibiting as much Zeal as Greatness of Genius, in executing the Resolution the King took to oppose a powerful Fleet against two Nations, which till then had quarrell'd for the Empire of the Sea ; and which having join'd all their Forces, did not believe that France could think of any thing else, but to defend her own Coasts. His Majesty was pleas'd not only that he should visit the Ports to hasten out the Fleet, but that he should also embark on it. A Detachment of Ships carry'd a great Convoy to Ireland, and defeated an English Squadron much superior in the Bay of Bantry. The junction of the Ships from the East, with those from the West, was executed, maugre all that the Enemy could do to prevent it ; and afterwards the King's Fleet keeping the Sea, oblig'd them to fly and hide themselves in their Ports.

At his return from this Campagne, the King honour'd him with the Place of Minister of State, and after he had given his Majesty an account of the Condition of the Marine, he contriv'd, according to his Orders, a new Project of Armament for the Year 1690. which being happily put in execution, was follow'd with the glorious Success of a Battel won in \* the Channel off Beachy-Point.

Returning from this Voyage, he fell into a Consumption, of which he died the 3d of No-

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\* *A la hauteur du cap de Beveziers.*

## *during the Last Century.* III

vember 1690. in the flower of his Age, not above 39 Years old.

The King lost by his death a Minister who having been molded almost under his Majesty's Eyes, and with his Hand, had as much Devotion for *his Person*, as Zeal for the *honour* and general *good* of the *Kingdom*: Of a Genius lively, active, and intrepid; fruitful in Expedients, and to which nothing seem'd impossible when the Glory and Service of so great a Master was concern'd.

The Court lost one of its greatest Ornaments: For, His Magnificence, the delicateness of his Wit, the agreeableness of his Conversation, his love of Learning and Men of Worth, his exquisite knowledge of the noble Arts, and many other excellent Qualities, had endear'd to him the most select and most considerable Persons of the Kingdom.

He was twice marry'd: First with Mademoiselle *d'Aligre*, by whom he had a Daughter that died very young. He marry'd afterwards Mademoiselle *de Matignon*, by whom he had five Sons. He is interr'd at St. *Eustache*, in the Chapel which is the Burying-place of his Family.

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## *Pomponius de Bellievre,* First President.

THE House of *Bellievre* is originally of *Lyon*, and has been very prolific in Great Men. It has given Archbishops to that City, a Chancellor to *France*, Presidents *au Mortier* and a First President to the Parliament of *Paris*, and two to *that* of *Grenoble*. They have serv'd our Kings with a great deal of Zeal and Loyalty, and to this Day there's not one of 'em but may be look'd upon as the Model of a perfect Magistrate, and a real Man of Honour. He, whose Elogium I undertake, was Son of *Nicholas de Bellievre*, President in the Parliament of *Paris*, and came into the World with all the good Qualities that could be wish'd; Wit, Discretion, and Docility. His Father (that nothing might be wanting to the Son) gave him a good Education, which encreas'd and polish'd his Natural Endowments with the universal knowledge of all the curious Arts. After his Studies, he was put to the Academy, where he learn'd to Ride, and to perform all the Exercises of Horsemanship. He was receiv'd Counsellor in the Parliament at 22 Years of Age, and gave in the function of this Charge singular demonstrations of the Rectitude of his Soul, and the Penetration of his Mind in Business.

ness. The King who was sensible of it, call'd him to his Council, and created for him and Monsieur *de Thou*, in consideration of their Merit, two Places of Masters of Requests. He was sent Intendant into *Languedoc*, where the People were no less endear'd with his Justice and Moderation, than the King was satisfy'd with the good account he gave of all Affairs which pass'd through his Hands.

His Quickness in clearing up the Difficulties of Business, and in reconciling the most opposite Interests of Parties, which he oftner accommodated than adjudged, did engage the King to choose him for three Ambassies successively. The first into *Italy*. He was then but 38 Years old ; but he made it evident, That Wisdom is not always the fruit of a great Age. He reign'd over Those Refin'd Wits, who think that out of *their Soil and Sun* there's no Politics nor Prudence.

From thence he pass'd into *England*, where his Presence put a stop to the Cruelties that were going to be exercis'd against the Catholics. His Eloquence appeas'd the Storm that was ready to break forth, and restor'd Calm to that Kingdom. The third Ambassy was into *Holland*, and no less Successful than the other two. He discharg'd himself of these three important Negotiations with so much Ability, and so much Success for *France*, that the King in acknowledgment thereof, gave him the Place of First President of the Parliament of *Paris*. Never was the Place fill'd with more Grandeur or Dignity ; but *France* enjoy'd not this good Fortune long. He died the 13th of *March 1657*. aged 50 Years, 6 Months, and 10 Days.

As the Dignity of First President hath annex'd to it the Quality of First Administrator of the *Hôtel-Dieu* (Hospital) of *Paris*, to the intent that He who presides in *Justice* may also in *Mercy*; Monsieur *de Bellievre* so well understood the Obligations he was under of taking a particular Care of the Poor, that not contenting himself with providing for the Neces-sities of the Sick in that Hospital, He was desirous to extend his Charity also upon those who had yet the blessing of Health, and to take care not only of their Bodies, but of their Souls. For this purpose, he laid the Foundation of a General Hospital, a Project which had been conceiv'd by the Great Chancellor *Pomponius de Bellievre*, his Grandfather, but which Heaven had reserv'd to be executed by him. He had observ'd, that there is a Race of Men upon the Earth, who have scarce any knowledge of a God, who value neither Princes, nor Laws; whose Rule it is to do all they can with Impunity, and are neither restrain'd by Modesty, nor Honesty. Monsieur *de Bellievre* undertook to Civilize these wild and brutish People, and to give 'em Religion, Laws, and Modesty. This Enter-prise appear'd at first a meer Idea, but expe-rience hath shewn that it was not impossible to be establish'd. He accomplish'd it by his Care and by the help of his own proper Charities, which were very considerable. He even left them by his Will, the Bed whereon he died, with all his Household Furniture. Many Peo-ple will have it, that one of the chief reas ons which kept him from marrying, was, *his love for the Poor*, and the pleasure of having only them

them for his Children. Such a Charity is something very valuable ; above all, when it is joined with an infinity of other Virtues, the least of which, in the degree that Monsieur *Bellievre* possess'd 'em, might have suffic'd to have made a very great Personage.

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I 2

FRANCIS

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## *FRANCIS PITHOU,* Advocate in Parliament.

THE Family of Messieurs *Pithou* is originally of the Town of *Vire* in *Normandy*. In the List of Gentlemen that went to the Holy War in 1160. there is mention made of one *William Pithou*, who bore the same Arms as the *Pithous* do at this day in the City of *Troyes*. The Father of him I speak of, (a very able Lawyer by report of all *Champagne*, who had recourse to him as an Arbitrator upon all their Differences) and (according to the Testimonies even of *Cujas*) had two Children, *Peter* and *Francis*, not only worthy of him, but surpassing him. We should have plac'd here the Portrait and Elogium of *Peter Pithou*, the eldest Son, but that he dying in the preceding Century, it had been a breach of the Law we have set our selves, *Of not going out of the present Age*; for he was a Man very worthy of possessing a Place in this Collection. His extraordinary Merit made *Henry III.* choose him for his Attorney-General in the Chamber of Justice, which he sent into *Guienne* in the Year 1582. and he was one of those who labour'd the most usefully and with most zeal in the Surrender of *Paris* under the Obedience of the King, *Henry IV.*

*Francis*

Francis Pithou his Brother, who is the Person whose Elogium I am now making, was born at *Troyes* in the Year 1544. He was one of the most learned Men of his time, and made great Discoveries in the Law, and in the *Belles Lettres*. We owe to him the Fables of *Phedrus*, which were never seen before, and had remain'd in Manuscript, bury'd in the Dust of Libraries from the time of *Augustus*. He sent this MS. to his Brother, and having perus'd it together, they deliver'd it immediately to the Press. It was a great Present they made to the Public; and the Commonwealth of Polite Learning are very much oblig'd to 'em; it being certain that there's nothing in all Antiquity better Told, nor with a greater Delicacy, than the Fables of that Author, or that can shew a *terser* Latin.

Francis Pithou pass'd almost his whole life in reviving the ancient Authors, either correcting or illustrating them by very learned and very curious Notes. No body ever understood any one Greek or Latin Author more perfectly than he possess'd 'em all together, by having collated them with the oldest Copies, and digested 'em by a long and profound Meditation. Neither hath any body had a more exact knowledge of the History of France, as also all Europe; as likewise of the Manners and Customs of all the different People which compose it: A knowledge he had attain'd to with incredible pains, as well by the reading of Authors that have treated of it, as by the communication of City-Registers, Registers of Parliaments, Chambers of Accounts,

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Churches, and Monasteries, out of which he transcribed with his own Hand, every thing he judged worthy of Observation: So that he was ever in a readiness to answer not only upon any Dispute which might arise between private Men, in shewing them how far the Laws, Ordinances and Customs had settled the Point, but to give solid Rules in the management of public Affairs. Thus, tho' he never possess'd any Office of Magistracy, yet he contribut'd vastly to the Good of his Country, by the sage Advice he gave to those who were in Place.

He founded a College in the City of *Troyes*, which flourishes no less at this day, than at its first Institution. King *Henry IV.* nominated him Attorney-General of the Chamber of Justice against *les Gens d'Affairs*, wherein he gave great instances of his Sufficiency and Constancy. He was also chosen by the same Prince, to assist at the Conference which was held at *Fontainbleau* between *Cardinal Perron*, and the Sieur *du Plessis Mornay*, upon a Book which the latter wrote against the Mass. When it was propos'd to regulate the Limits between *France* and the *Low-Countries*, and to distinguish what were the ancient Bounders of those States, He was in the number of those to whom that Commission was given.

He was engag'd in printing the fragments of the History of St. *Hillarius* Bishop of *Poitiers* when he fell sick of the Distemper which carry'd him off, the 7th of February 1621. He was aged 77 Years, 6 Months, and 17 Days.

He

He was a Man of a most exact Virtue, and very exemplary Modesty. He would never suffer his Name to be put to any of the Works he publish'd, tho' they're very Excellent, and do him a great deal of Honour.

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*NICOLAS le FEVRE,*  
Preceptor to *Louis XIII.*

THE Person whose Panegyric I now undertake, had united to himself two Qualities which are rarely found together, Great Learning, and as Great Modesty. The latter advantage was deriv'd in him from the good Principles of his own Nature, and the Christian Education he had receiv'd from his Parents: The other he ow'd to his continual application to Study. He was born the 4th of July 1543. and began his Studies in the College *la Marche*, where he had like to ha' died in the first Years of his Infancy by an Accident as odd as it was severe. He was making a Pen, some of the Cuttings flew into his Eye, where being minded to carry his Hand in the instant, because of the smart, he carry'd thither also the point of the Penknife, which pierc'd his Eye after such a manner, that all the Humour inclos'd in it issued out, and spread it self upon his Brother's Cloathes who was near him. He fell grievously ill; and when he recover'd his Health, it seem'd that the strength of the lost Eye was past entirely into the other, with which he saw as clearly as when he had 'em both. His Father dying, his Mother took all possible care that nothing was wanting to his Studies.

Studies. When he had compleated his Humanities and Philosophy; to omit nothing which could contribute to form his Mind and his Manners, she sent him with his Brother to *Turin*, afterwards to *Pavia*, and at laft to *Bologna*, to study the Law under the excellent Masters which were then in those Countries. He continu'd to Travel during the Year 1571. through *Italy*, where it being almost impossible to set foot in any place, without treading upon some venerable Monument of Antiquity, He observ'd an infinite number of things which were afterwards of great benefit to him in his Studies.

At the Age of 18. He took the resolution of living in the State of *Celibacy*; and when one of his Friends press'd him to hear some Proposals of Marriage that was making to him: *I would, answer'd he, gladly be as fix'd in all the good Resolutions I have taken upon the conduct of my Life, as I am in that of never marrying.*

He gave himself wholly to Study; yet, to satisfie his Mother, he took an Office of Counsellor of the Waters and Forests, which he discharg'd with all the exactnes imaginable. About that time, the Plague raging extreamly in *Paris*, his Mother was struck with it. He could not separate himself one moment from her, nor forbear paying her all the Duty and all the Assistance with which a sick Person may be comforted and relieved, tho' the greatest part of her Domestics had abandon'd her. He accompany'd her even to the Grave, where afterwards he desir'd to be bury'd near to her.

Having

Having lost his Father about the same time, he laid down his Place, and sought to comfort himself in his Solitude, by applying to Polite Learning, and the Duties of Piety, whereof he made a particular profession. He fastned an intimate and strict Friendship with *Peter Pithou*, one of the most Learned, most Discreet and Worthiest Men of his Age. They lodg'd together, and pass'd several Years in that agreeable and virtuous Commerce. He bent his Studies particularly to the Works of *Seneca*, or of the *Senecaes*, if it be true that the Poet and Declamer are not the same with the Philosopher. He restor'd 'em to their first Purity, and illustrated them with very learned Annotations. He would never have his Name put to any Edition of his Works, tho' of a nature to do him much Honour, and to create him a great Esteem among the Learned. He took a pleasure to assist those with his Lights who were employ'd in giving Works to the Public. *Baronius*, who was at that time writing his *Great History*, receiv'd much help from him, and hath inserted in that Work of his, entire Pieces of several curious Discoveries which he held of Monsieur *le Fevre*; such as what he reports Upon the Wine mixed with Myrrh; a Drink which was commonly given to dying Criminals to take away their sense of Pain, and which our Saviour refus'd, that he might bate nothing of the Evils which his Love made him suffer for our sakes.

About that time, to divert his Mind from the Chagrins occasion'd by the lamentable Troubles of the *League*, he apply'd himself to the study of Mathematics, wherein he made so great

great a progress, that *Scaliger* conceiving he had well demonstrated the manner of measuring the Circle; and *Monantœil* averring, that *Scaliger's* Demonstration was very clear and very evident, *le Fevre* was the first that discover'd the *Paralogism* wherein *Scaliger* was fallen, and which *Scaliger* himself was oblig'd to own, *Henry IV.* having made himself Peaceable Master of his Realm, and desiring to give an excellent Education to young Prince *Henry of Bourbon*, his nearest Heir, made choice of *Monsieur le Fevre* to be his Preceptor; but his Modesty and his extream Piety, which fear'd the Court and the Glitter that attends it, had all the difficulty in the World to resolve upon it. *Monsieur Harlay* and *Monsieur de Thou*, his Friends, were fain to labour a long time to vanquish his resistance; which they could no otherways do, but by representing to him, How Serviceable he would be to his Country and to his King, by molding the Manners of a Prince of the Blood and presumptive Heir of the Crown. He acquitted himself perfectly well of that Employ, and his young Disciple answer'd admirably the Instructions and Pains of his Master. He was nominated to assist at the Conferences that were held at *Fontainbleau* upon *Plessis Mornay's* Book; but the ill state of his Health hinder'd him. He return'd to the House of Mons. *Pithou's* Widow, where he attended the exercises of Piety more than ever. He was chosen Preceptor to *Louis XIII.* He excus'd himself upon account of his Age; but the Queen having promis'd him all the Relief that his Infirmity requir'd; and all the Men of Worth, and principally *Monsieur the Prince*, his

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his Pupil and Disciple, having represented to him, *That he ow'd himself to his Prince and his Country, and that it was glorious for him to die under the burthen of so honourable a Task, he was fain to yield to it.*

He enjoy'd not this Employment long, and died the 4th of November 1612. aged 68 Years and some Months.

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**FRANCIS**

*FRANCIS la MOTHE  
le VATER,  
Of the French Academy.*

THE Learning of the greatest Scholars is generally confin'd to the knowledge of what has been Done and Said by the *Greeks* and *Romans*; They look upon the rest of the World as little worthy to be consider'd, being persuaded, That Valour, Prudence, and all the Virtues imaginable, are not to be met with (in any degree of perfection) but only among those two Nations.

The Person I'm now speaking of not being able to endure such narrow bounds to his Eru-dition, after he had stor'd himself with every thing that has been done and said by the ancient World, There was no People on the Earth, whose Genius, Manners, Customs, he did not undertake to be acquainted with: In a word, he was resolv'd to know All the World throughout. He saw, and made it appear to others, That there is no Thought, no Opinions, nor Customs, (be they as strange and absurd as 'tis possible) but have been retain'd and establish'd in some Country of considerable Extent.

This

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This Discovery went a great way towards confirming him in a sort of *Pyrrhonism*, (where-to he was strongly addicted by Nature) and in ridding himself of several bad Impressions, which are owing to Birth, Education, and Custom.

He was the Son of a great Proficient in Polite Literature ; for his Father, after he had master'd the learned Languages, gave himself to the study of the Civil and Canon-Law, and of the Mathematics. He pass'd for an excellent Orator and a good Poet ; so that it is not at all strange he should give birth to a Son of so great Merit.

*Francis la Motbe le Vayer* was no sooner known for what he was, but he was chosen to be Preceptor to *Philip of France*, only Brother to the King, then Duke of *Anjou*, and since Duke of *Orleans*. He also perform'd the same Function of Preceptor to the King for the space of a Year. He stood in such high Reputation both in Court and City, that there were few Men comparable to him either for Wit or Learning. He was one of the first receiv'd into the *French Academy* after its Establishment. The Works he has compos'd, and which are of a prodigious number, are in the Hands of all the World, and have been collected into three Volumes in Folio, and fifteen small *Duodecimo's*. There's hardly any Subject that merits the *Attention* and *Examen* of a Man of Letters, and particularly in Questions of Morality, upon which he has not written and reported almost every thing that has been said by the Ancients, and by the Moderns ; He is deem'd as the *Plutarch* of our Age, as well for his Learning, which

which has no limits, as his manner of reasoning and speaking his Opinion, always modest and reserv'd, and very far from the decisive Air of the Dogmatics.

When Monsieur *de Vaugelas* had publish'd his Remarks upon the French Tongue, he could not forbear writing against them, not only several Letters, but an entire Volume, wherein he complains loudly of the Constraint and the Teder he puts to the Stile of all Writers by his Remarks, which he alledges to be generally false or impertinent. Tho' Monsieur *Vaugelas* had very great reason to oppose himself against the corruption of the Language, and the vicious ways of Speaking, either such as were grown out of the *best* Fashion, or introduc'd by a *worse*; yet Monsieur *le Motte* could not bear that a New-comer should give him Lessons, and make Scruples upon an infinity of Dictions and Phrases which he had so confidently made use of, and upon which he lived with all the security in the World, as did also most of the best Writers of his time. He was like some honest Churchmen, who being accustom'd to their ancient Discipline, (be it grown a little remiss) yet cannot bear (tho' otherwise very good Men) that any body should go about to reform 'em and reduce 'em to a kind of Life more regular and austere. But it came to pass notwithstanding all the Clamour he and several others made against *Vaugelas* Remarks, they have been receiv'd with universal Applause; and all the Writers that have come since, have carefully observ'd the same in every particular, except a very small number that are grown obsolete.

He

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He died in 1672. aged 86 Years, having enjoy'd his Health to the last Days of his Life. His Conversation was very agreeable, infinitely entertaining upon any Subject whatever ; a little *Dissenting* sometimes, but never in the least *Obstinate* nor *Peremptory* : All Opinions being in a manner indifferent to him, *save those which FAITH does not suffer to be doubted of.*

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JOSEPH

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## JOSEPH JUSTUS SCALIGER.

IT was believ'd impossible for a Man to get a greater Reputation in the knowledge of human Learning, than was done by *Julius Scaliger*, Father to him whose Elogium I undertake. It is, nevertheless, Certain, That *Joseph* his Son surpass'd him in that Point, and the Celebrity of his Name much greater. They both plead themselves descended from the Princes of *Verona*, but they met with a great many Contradictors upon that Article. Admitting this Pedigree to be but a Fable, as no body believes it to be any other, that has read what *Scioppius* has written of it, yet *Joseph* is in some measure excusable for having maintained it, upon account of his Father's having publish'd it for Truth; Since he could not avoid it, without confessing his Father to be an Impostor, which might have had very bad Consequences.

However it be, they have gain'd to themselves (and particularly the Person I'm speaking of) a Principality among Men, equivalent to that which was disputed 'em. They have been Recogniz'd the Princes and the Chiefs of all the Scholars

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of their Age, and but very few have deny'd them this glorious Precedence.

Montaign ('tis true) has preferr'd *Justus Lipsius* to him I'm speaking of; and *Salmasius* has set *Casaubon* above him; but this was never the public Sentiment of the Learned of those Times.

*Joseph Scaliger* was the tenth Child of *Jullius*, and was born at *Agen*, the 4th of *August* 1540. At the Age of Eleven, his Father sent him to School with two of his Brothers to *Bourdeaux*, from whence the Plague, which was very raging in that Country, oblig'd him to retire, after he had staid there three Years. He return'd to his Father, who took upon himself to educate him in his Studies. He held him to make every Day a Declamation upon such a Subject as he would choose, and 'twas commonly upon a point of History, which was the Study he was then in course of. This continual Exercise gain'd him an incredible Facility in Expressing himself, especially in Latin, upon all manner of Subjects. The Verses that his Father compos'd, tho' far from Fine, gave him a taste of Poetry, and excited him to turn himself that way. His Father was so surpriz'd at the beauty of his Son's Verses, that he could not forbear demanding of him, *Whence he had his Materials, and the manner of working 'em up?* At 17 Years of Age, he made a Tragedy of *Oedipus*, wherein all the Ornaments and all the Graces of Poetry are so happily employ'd, that in the judgment he gives of it himself, he says, *He should not have repented to have made it in the very ripest Age of his Life.* His Father dying, he came to *Paris* to study Greek under

under *Adrian Turnebe*. After he had heard him two Months entire, he made a Grammar for himself, not meeting with any that satisfy'd him ; and by the help of this he arriv'd in three Weeks time, not only to *understand*, but to *master* all *Homer*; and all the rest of the Greek Poets, in the space of four Months. It is very hard to believe, tho' 'tis what he glory'd himself in. Afterwards he betook himself to Hebrew, and the other Oriental Tongues, which he learnt alone, by dint of Application, which was so intense, that he had not the least knowledge of the Disorder and terrible Out-cries which were made in *Paris* on St. *Bartlemy's* Black Day 1572. This profound Attention of *Scaliger's*, yields not at all to that of *Archimedes*, who could not be drawn from his Mathematical Meditations by the Taking and Sacking of *Siracuse*. He went to *Geneva* to study Divinity under *Theodore Beza*. In fine, He carry'd his Studies to such a length, that it might be truly said, he was ignorant of Nothing that Man could know. The Learnedest of all Countries had recourse to him upon their Difficulties, and receiv'd his Decisions as Oracles. He translated into Latin several Books of *Hippocrates*, and particularly That of Wounds in the Head. He was Author of an infinite number of Works which will never die; such are his *Notes upon Varro*, *Upon Festus*, and several other Authors, whereby he has plain'd off all their Roughness. But, what cannot be conceiv'd for the Travel and incredible Sagacity he must needs have to untie all the Knots which he met with, are his two Books of Chronology; the one, entitul'd, *Thesaurus Temporum*; the other, *Eumenia*.

*dato Temporum*; Books which one cannot without difficulty comprehend to have been made by one Man, so vast is the Matter they contain'd, and such the Order, Method, and Clearness with which all things are disposed. He was a Retainer to the House of *Rocheponay*, where he dwelt near upon nine Years, having bred up and tutor'd *Louis Chasteignier*, Lord of *Rocheponay*, whom he accompany'd to *Rome* in his Ambassiey. He was call'd to *Leyden* by the States-General of the United Provinces, to teach human Learning, on condition not to be Professor, but to be upon a level with the Rector, whose Dignity is very considerable in that Place. He taught there for the space of 16 Years.

There had been nothing farther to have been wish'd for his Good, if, when he had spent his whole Life among Books, he had died in the Bosom of the Church, as he had caus'd some of his Friends to hope, and seem'd to be very desirous of doing. For 'tis reported in the Life of Mons<sup>t</sup>. *Peyresc*, written by *Gassendi*, That when Mons<sup>t</sup>. *Peyresc* went into *Holland* to see the learned Men of that Time, he made a visit to *Joseph Scaliger*, who was his Friend, and who declar'd to him, (in the Conversation they had together) That he had it in his intention to come and wait his Dissolution in *France*, to be interr'd in the Tomb of his Father. Which kind of Confidence having given occasion to M. *Peyresc* to ask him, *If he did not also design to end his Days in the same Religion?* He reply'd no otherwise, than by a very great Effusion of Tears, which sufficiently testify'd the good Sentiments of his Heart.

His

His Mind was immensely Extensive, profoundly Penetrating, and his Application prodigious; Qualities which never fail to make a Great Man, when they are join'd together, which rarely happens. He had, perhaps, a too great Opinion of his own Sufficiency: For he was persuaded, that for the understanding of the learned Tongues, and particularly for the Critic of Authors, no Man of his Age was comparable to him. He died at *Leiden* the 31st of *January* 1609. aged 69 Years. His Motto, *Aquila in Nubibus.*

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**NICHOLAS RIGAULT,**  
Keeper of the King's Li-  
brary.

Monsieur de Thou had so great an opinion of him I'm going to speak of, that he pray'd him (in his Will) to take care of the Education of his Children, to direct them in the study of human Learning, and to watch over Them and the Preceptors that should be given 'em: He charg'd him also with the Edition of his *History*, and his other Works. Such a Confidence supposes so many good Qualities in the Person of Mons. Rigault, that it might serve of it self for his Elogium.

He was born at Paris in 1577. and went to School to the Jesuits, who, enamour'd with the Delicacy of his Wit, omitted nothing that they thought might engage him to put himself into their Society. He compos'd a Writing in Latin under the title of *Satyra Menippaea, Somnium, L. Biberii Curculionis Parasiti Mortualia apta ad ritum prisci funeris*: Wherein there appear'd so much Wit and Reading, that the Learned of that Time could hardly believe it to be the Work of a Man of 19 Years of Age. Monsieur de Thou was so charm'd with it, that he sent one of his Coaches to Poitiers to fetch him to his House, and to make him the Companion

panion of his Studies. He was chosen with Monsieur Casaubon, to put the King's Library in order, and was made Keeper of it at the same time. If he did the Public a considerable Service, by Digesting so great a number of Books, He receiv'd from thence, on his own part, a very great Advantage by the Lights he gather'd in examining them; Lights which have shone in the different Works we have of his.

It is to Monsieur Pithou we owe the *Phedrus*, which till him had lain bury'd in the Rubbish of Libraries; but M. Rigault did not a little labour to make him known to the Public. 'Tis notorious, what is the Beauty, the Naturalness, and the Elegance of that Author, so useful for Youth in most of his Fables, either for the Morals, or the pure and spruce Latin of the *Augustan* Age. He turn'd himself afterwards to retrieve *Tertullian*, and by way of Annotations, to explain the hard Expressions of that Author.

He also made Remarks upon St. Cyprian, *Minutius Felix*, *Artemidorus*; upon *Julian*, and the Writers *de re Agraria*. These Remarks are full of most profound Learning, and were esteem'd by all Men that were any thing of Scholars. He had sometimes particular Opinions. It was He who reviv'd and maintain'd a very extraordinary Paradox touching the Figure of the Person, and Visage of Jesus Christ. He was so far from being of the common Opinion, which will have the Make of our Lord to be very Beautiful and Comely, according to the Passage that's alledged; *Speciosus formâ pœ filii hominum*: That he argues, "Our Sa-

" viour was unfurnish'd with any of the Goods  
" of Nature, and That as he would neither have  
" Honour nor Riches, he also renounc'd the ad-  
" vantage of a graceful Figure. And this he  
grounds upon an infinite number of Passages of  
H. Scripture and the Fathers, which give some  
probability to his Opinion; being persuaded that  
the Countenance of the Lord ought to carry all  
the marks of the Weakness and Infirmitie which  
are the attendants of human Nature (Sin only  
excepted.)

But be it as 'twill, it is amazing, that there  
should be Disputes upon this Article from the  
time even of *Tertullian*, who was of the Opin-  
ion with Monsieur *Rigault*. The reason that  
may be given of the Uncertainty of a Thing  
which one would think ought not to be Doubt-  
ful, is, That our Lord having pass'd his whole  
Life among the *Jews*, who were expressly for-  
bid by the Law of God to make any Image or  
any Resemblance of any thing that is in Heav-  
en above, or in the Earth below, or in the  
Waters under the Earth, there was not any  
Painter, nor any Sculptor, who dar'd to make  
his Portrait, whereof the sole view would  
have prevented all these Disputes.

Father *Vavasor* (Jesuit) has taken a middle  
way between these two so opposite Opinions:  
His Thought is, That our Lord was neither  
Handsom nor Ugly; and that if it be probable  
that he renounc'd the frivolous advantage of  
an extraordinary Beauty, it is no less unre-  
asonable to think, that he chose to appear un-  
der a Form that was scandalous and shocking,  
which did not in the leaſt ſuit with him, nor  
could it be of any ſervice in the Divine Fun-  
ctions of his Ministry. After

After the death of M. *de Thou*, his Majesty honour'd M. *Rigault* with the Commission of Attorney-General to the Sovereign Chamber of *Nancy*, whereof he took Possession. He got to be receiv'd Counsellor in the Parliament of *Metz* in the first Days of its Creation, and he was Dean thereof till his death, which happen'd in the Year 1654. During this interval, the Affairs of *Lorain* having oblig'd the King to remove this Parliament from the City of *Mets* to that of *Toul*, his Majesty gave him the Intendance of the Province, with Power to judge Sovereignly the Affairs wherein the *Soldiers* of the Garrison of *Mets* might have any concern. The People were so well pleas'd with the Equitableness of his Judgments, They omitted nothing that might make their Affairs cognizable by Him; to that degree, that the Citizens en-roll'd themselves of his Jurisdiction.

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OLIVER

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## O L I V E R P A T R U ,

Advocate in Parliament,  
and Dean of the *French*  
Academy.

O liver Patru, Advocate in Parliament, and Dean of the *French* Academy, was one who understood our Tongue the best of any Man in the Kingdom. From his first Years he knew the Genius of it perfectly; and in the Journy he made to *Rome* in his Youth having met at *Turin* Monsieur D'Urfy, who had then lately publish'd his *Astrea*, he discours'd him upon the Beauties of his Work with so much Wit and good Sense, that this Lord who then pass'd for the most Witty and most Polite *French* Author, being amaz'd at the Capacity of the young Man, engag'd him (in his return) to call at his House *de Forest*, to go through with his Conferences on his *Astrea*, and to explain the Mystery of it to him. But the young Traveller was inform'd of the death of Monsieur D'Urfy in his way through *Lyon*.

After his return to *Paris*, he frequented the Bar, whither he carry'd an Eloquence form'd upon *that* of the Ancients, which had scarce yet appear'd there at all, but in the Harangues and Pleadings of Monsieur *le Maistre*. Yet tho'

he

he was reckon'd one of the most Eloquent Men of his Age, he had not the same Rank allow'd him among the Counsellors, because he was no vehement Orator. He had neither the Voice, nor Lungs, nor the Assurance requisite to the Profession of a Lawyer; neither was the Eloquence of his *Speech* supported by *that* of the *Body*, so necessary to move the Multitude, and gain the Suffrages of the Vulgar.

The Reputation that he presently won by the precious Talent of Speech, render'd him worthy to have a Place in the *French Academy*. He was admitted in the Year 1640. And the Speech of Thanks he made at his Reception, was so very pleasing to the Academics, that the Company order'd, That all those who should be admitted for the future, should make a Discourse of Acknowledgment: Which has been constantly practis'd ever since, and in a manner Glorious for those that are admitted, and for those that receive the Thanks.

There hath been printed a Collection of all these Speeches, as also all the others which have been pronounc'd by *Messieurs of the Academy* on sundry Occasions, which the Public has had the benefit of, and for which it is oblig'd in some sort to Mons. Patru, who began to put in use so laudable a Custom.

When the Queen of Sweden came into France, and desir'd to be present at a Sitting of the Academy, M. Patru was chosen by this illustrious Body to signifie their Acknowledgment. He discharg'd himself in a manner worthy of the Person whom he Harangu'd, and of the Society who made him their Spokes-man.

Monsieur

Monsieur *Vaugelas* receiv'd from him very great Helps toward his Book of *Remarks upon the French Tongue*; and that Excellent Grammian, to whom our Tongue owes so much, confess'd himself oblig'd to Mons. *Patru* for the principal Secrets of his Art. All those who have since Writ best in French, have consulted him as their Oracle; and his Pleadings serve to this day as the Standard of Correct Writing in our Tongue.

He made a sound Judgment of every thing, and nothing was more reasonable than the Criticism he made on such Works in Prose and Verse as were submitted to his Censure. But the Qualities of his *Soul* were in no wise inferior to those of his *Mind*. He had a Radical Honesty, which favour'd of the Innocence of the First Ages, and was proof against the Corruption of the World. There never was a Man of better Correspondence, nor Friend more Tender, more Faithful, more Officious, more Commodious, and more Agreeable. The ill Fortune he met with, (according to the Fate of most Men that are extraordinary for their Learning) could never alter the Gayety of his Humour, nor trouble the Serenity of his Countenance. Others Misfortunes were more touching to him than his own; and his Charity to the Poor, (whom he could not see without Relieving, even sometimes when it had been more convenient for him to have let it alone) was perhaps what obtain'd him from Heaven the favour of a long Sicknes, during which he resign'd himself absolutely to God. For as he liv'd an honest Man, and not unlike a Philosopher, He died a good Christian, in partaking of the Sacraments of the

the Church, and in Sentiments of a sincere Repentance.

During his Sicknes, Mons. Colbert sent him a Gratification from the King, as a mark of the Esteem his Majesty had for a Man who was an Honour to France; and he has been lamented since his death by all good Men throughout the Kingdom.

He died the 18th of *Januaty* 1681. aged 77 Years. His Memory will never die, and the Name of *Patru* will be famous, as long as French is spoken in the World.

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**ISMAEL**

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*ISMAEL BOUILLEAU,*  
Astronomer.

**I**smael Bouilleau was born at Loudun the 28th of September 1605. His Parents (Calvinists) put him to School, where he profited very much in a little time. His penetrating Wit having discover'd to him in part the Error he was in, he caus'd himself to be Instructed, and Abjur'd his Heresie at the Age of 21 Years. He afterwards receiv'd Holy Orders, and was promoted to that of the Priesthood at the Age of Five and twenty.

He study'd human Learning at the place of his Birth, Philosophy at Paris, and Law at Poitiers. When he left the Schools, being qualify'd to enter into the Secret of Sciences, He apply'd himself strenuously to Divinity, to the knowledge of History, Sacred and Prophane, to the Mathematics, and particularly to Astronomy ; wherein he made so great progress, that in the Preface of the Catalogue of the Library of St. Victor, which he had the care of Digesting, he had the Quality of *Astronomer* given him.

In 1638. He publish'd a Treatise, *Of the Nature of Light.* Messieurs de Chambre and Petit, Physicians, wrote a long time after, one against another, upon the same Subject ; and Monsieur

Monsieur Bouilleau was astonish'd that these two (Excellent) Men should dare to attempt any thing upon that Subject, having no knowledge of Optics. There's reason to wonder at Monsieur Bouilleau's Astonishment; For tho' there is an affinity between these two things, and that Optics cannot be well comprehended without knowing the nature of Light, it is not conclusive at all, That to be able to speak pertinently of the nature of Light, there needs a very great Understanding in the Optic.

The Year following, He publish'd at Amsterdam his *Philolaus*, or his Dissertations of the true System of the World. In 1640. He compos'd a Dissertation upon S. *Benignus*, wherein he shews the Contradictions which are in History, which says, That in the Year 195. in the third *Indiction*, under the Reign of the Emperor *Severus*, S. *Benignus*, Servant of God, was sent with his Companions into *Gaul*, there to preach the Gospel: That this Mission was made by St. *Polycarp*, Metropolitan of *Asia*, pursuant to the advice of St. *Ireneus*, who had appear'd to him a few Days after his Martyrdom. Monsieur Bouilleau makes it appear, that in the time of the Emperor *Severus*, there was no talk at all of *Indictions*, which were not instituted before *Constantine*, in the Year 312. That the Title of Metropolitan, given to St. *Polycarp*, was then unknown; and lastly, That St. *Ireneus*, who died 36 Years after St. *Polycarp*, could not appear to him. In 1644. He translated into Latin *Theon de Smirna*, Platonic Philosopher, and illustrated him with Notes. The next Year, He set forth a great Work, entitul'd, *Astrologia Philolaica*; where

where he attempts to demonstrate the Motions of the Planets by a New and true Hypothesis, with very easie Tables. Four Years after, He compos'd a Treatise in favour of the Churches of *Portugal*, which from the time that Kingdom had shaken off the Yoke of the *Spaniards*, remain'd unprovided of Bishops, through the Pope's refusing to give Bulls to those that were nominated by King *John IV.* Before he decides any thing, he reports with care the different manners how the Catholic Church, according to the Times, was furnish'd with Pastors, and particularly how *Spain* came to alter (in the 6th Canon of the Council of *Toledo*) the usage that had been observ'd till then, by deciding that it should be permitted, (for the time to come) to the Archbishop of *Toledo* to institute as Bishops (in the place of their Predecessors) those whom the King should make choice of. He doubts not at all that the Kings of *Spain* and *Portugal* are lawful Possessors of the Right they have in the Institution of Bishops, having acquir'd it tacitly of the Clergy. He gives his opinion much after this manner ;  
“ After that the King (*John IV.*) hath for  
“ these eight Years besought *Urban VIII.* and  
“ *Innocent X.* to grant Bulls to the Bishops  
“ nominated, he may cause them to be Consecrated by the Metropolitans ; and as the  
“ Popes have heretofore pretended that the  
“ Power of Establishing Bishops in vacant  
“ Sees, was devolved to them, through the  
“ negligence of Princes, who had fail'd to provide; it will lawfully re-enter into his Right  
“ by a like negligence on the part of the Popes.  
“ In this he does not any thing wound the respect

“ spect he bears to the Holy See, and he will  
“ still be dispos’d as well as the Bishops confe-  
“ crated by the Metropolitans, to crave his  
“ Confirmation and receive Bulls.

In the same Year that he drew up this Writing for the Churches of *Portugal*, he caus’d to be printed, at the *Louvre*, a Volume of the *Byzantine History*, written in Greek by *Ducas*, which begins at *John Paleologus* first Emperor of *Constantinople*, and ends at *Mahomet II.* Emperor of the *Turks*. Mons. *Bouilleau* extracted this History from a Greek Manuscript of the King’s Library, and subjoin’d a Latin Version, with Notes. In 1657. He gave to the Public a Treatise of *Spiral Lines*, not having (as ’tis said) ever throughly comprehended what *Archimedes* speaks thereof, which is rematkable enough. In 1663. He publish’d in one Vol. a Treatise taken from *Ptolemy*, with a Latin Version, entitul’d, *De judicandi facultate & animi principatu*. Some time after he publish’d a great Work in Folio, with this Title, *Opus novum ad Arithmeticam infinitorum, Libris sex comprehensum, in quo plura à nonnullis hæc tenus edita demonstrantur*.

Besides these Works, he hath compos’d several others which have not seen the Light ; yet the great reputation they got him, diminish’d nothing of his Modesty ; and one of his Friends having testify’d to him by Letter the high opinion he had of him, Mons. *Bouilleau* made him this answer. “ There’s nothing in the World I  
“ fear so much as Praises : If what I do be ap-  
“ prov’d by Men of Worth and of Understand-  
“ ing in the Subjects I have treated, such an  
“ approbation, pure and unmixt with Elogiums,

L “ is

146 *Illustrious Men of France,*

" is worth all Panegyrics. He lived several Years with M. Dupuy, Keeper of the King's Library, where also assembled every Day, *Messieurs Grotius, Blondel, de Launoy, Goyet, Menage, Bigot, Thoinart, &c.* his most intimate Friends. After the death of M. Dupuy, President de Thou invited him into his Family, and carry'd him to Holland when he went thither Ambassador. He made several other Voyages into Italy, Germany, Poland, and the Levant. Queen *Louisa de Gonzaga* invited him to her Court, receiv'd him honourably, and made him a considerable Present. The King (*John Casimir*) appointed him his Agent with the States of Holland, during the War of Sweden and Poland. In 1689. He retir'd to the Abby of S. Victor, where he made his Will the 20th of August 1691. and died the 25th of November 1694.

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Bar-

## Barthelemy d'Herbelot, Interpreter of the Oriental Tongues.

A Great stock of Learning, join'd with a greater, of good Sense, and of Pobity, constitute the Character of him whose Elogium I undertake.

Barthelemy d'Herbelot was born at Paris the 4th of December 1625. of a Family considerable both in it self, and for its Alliances. As soon as he had finish'd his Studies of human Learning and Philosophy, under the most excellent Professors of the University, he bent himself to the study of the Oriental Tongues, and particularly the Hebrew, with the design of entring better into the sense of the original Text of the Books of the Old Testament.

After an Assiduity of several Years, he made a Voyage into Italy, being of an opinion that the Conversation of Armenians, and other Easterlings that often touch there, would be a great advantage to him in the knowledge of their Tongues. At Rome, he was in particular Esteem with the Cardinals Barberini and Grimaldi, and contracted a fast Friendship with Lucas Holstenius, and Leo Allatius, Keeper of

the *Vatican Library*, two of the most Learned Men of this Age.

In 1656. The Cardinal *Grimaldy*, Archbi-  
shop of *Aix*, sent him to *Marseilles* to meet  
the Queen of *Sweden* who was ravish'd with  
the choice that was made of a Man so univer-  
sally Knowing, and consequently so capable of  
entertaining her according to her Manner and  
Genius.

At his return from *Italy*, where he staid but  
a Year and a half, Monsieur *Fouquet*, Attorney-  
General of the Parliament of *Paris*, and Su-  
perintendant of the Exchequer, invited him in-  
to his Family, and gave him a Pension of 1500  
Livres.

It was thought that Monsieur *Fouquet's* Dis-  
grace, which happen'd a short time after, would  
have involv'd also Monsieur *d'Herbelot*, be-  
cause of his adherence to the Fortune of that  
Minister, but this hinder'd not his Merit from  
procuring him the Office of Interpreter of the  
Oriental Tongues, with Letters verify'd in the  
Chamber of Accounts. It is certain, that few  
Persons were so capable as He of that Em-  
ploy.

Some Years being elaps'd, He made another  
Voyage into *Italy*, where he acquir'd so great  
a Reputation, that all Persons of the first Rank,  
either for Learning or Dignity, press'd as it  
were by Strife to be acquainted with him. The  
Great Duke of *Tuscany* (*Ferdinand II.*) gave  
him extraordinary marks of his Esteem. It  
was at *Leghorn* that Monsieur *d'Herbelot* had  
the honour of seeing that Prince the first time.  
He convers'd frequently with him, and with  
the Prince his Son, (now Great Duke,) Who  
were

were so delighted with him, that they made him promise 'em to come and see 'em at Florence. He arriv'd there the 2d of July. 1666. and was receiv'd by the Secretary of State, who conducted him to a House prepar'd for his Lodging, with six Rooms of a Floor magnificently Furnish'd, and where they kept him a Table of four Courses, serv'd with all manner of Delicacy, and a Coach, of his Highness's Livery. You will find but few Examples of so great Honours done by a Sovereign to the sole Merit of a private Man. These Honours were crown'd by a Present, whereof the choice and ingenious manner of placing it, seem'd no less valuable than the Present it self, however magnificent and precious it was. A great Library having been about that time expos'd to sale in Florence, the Great Duke desir'd Mons. *d'Herbelot* to see it, to examine the Manuscripts in the Oriental Tongues that were there, to put the best apart, and to set down the Prices of 'em. As soon as that was done, this generous Prince bought 'em, and made a Present of 'em to Mons. *d'Herbelot*, as of a thing which was most according to his Relish.

So honourable a Treatment might seem a subject for Reproach to France, to deprive her self so long of so excellent a Man. But Mons. *Colbert*, naturally inclin'd to do good to Men of Learning, and above all to neglect nothing that could redound to the honour of France, caus'd him to be invited to return to Paris, with assurance, that he should there receive solid proofs of the Esteem he had acquir'd. The Great Duke (now reigning) was very reluctant to part with him, and did not consent to it be-

150 *Illustrious Men of France,*

fore he had seen the Orders of that Minister who recall'd him.

At his return into *France*, the King did him the honour to discourse him several times upon his Travels, and gave him a Pension of 1500 Livres. During his stay in *Italy*, he had begun his great Work of the *Bibliotheque Orientale*, and he gladly employ'd the leisure, (which he came to enjoy in *France*) upon carrying on a Work so Curious and so Useful. At first, he compos'd this Book in *Arabic*, and M. *Colbert* had resolv'd to cause it to be printed at the *Louvre*, with Characters which were to be cast on purpose: But after the death of that Minister, the Resolution was chang'd, and M. *d'Herbelot* did it all in *French*, that it might be of greater benefit. With regard to the Commonality of Scholars, this Book is as it were a new World; new Histories, new Politics, new Manners, new Poetry; in a word, a new Heaven, a new Earth. What could not go into this *Bibliotheque*, was digested by M. *d'Herbelot* under the Title of *Anthologia*, and contains what is most Curious in the History of the *Turks*, and in that of the *Arabians* and *Persians*. He also compil'd a Dictionary in *Turkish*, *Persian*, *Arabic*, and *Latin*, which Monsieur his Brother ought to give to the Public without delay, as likewise several Treatises very Curious, and very worthy of seeing the Light. It was in consideration of these extraordinary Talents that M. *de Pontchartrain* got him, some Years since, the Place of Royal Professor in *Syria*, vacant by the death of M. *d'Auvergne*. He died the 8th Day of December 1695. aged 70 Years.

Monsieur d'Herbelot was vers'd no less in the Greek and Latin Learning, than in the Oriental Tongues and Histories. He was a Man truly Universal in all the Species of Literature; but what was yet more estimable in him, is, That he had a Spirit superior to all his Knowledge, whereof he would never talk, but when he was invited by his Friends. He never Decided Magisterially, nor preferr'd his own Opinion to that of others. He attended their Arguments with Patience, and answer'd 'em with Moderation. His Learning was accompany'd with a perfect Probity, and a most substantial Piety.

# JOHN RACINE, Of the French Academy.

**C**Enius is a Gift of Nature which cannot be  
hid, and which shews it self in Children  
almost as early as Reason.

The Person I speak of had been Educated at *Port-Royal des Champs*, where having read, in the course of his Studies, the excellent Poesies of Monsieur *d'Andilly*, the Translation of the Poem of St. *Prosper* by Monsieur *Sacy*, and especially the admirable Translation of the Church-Hymns, by the same Author, he set himself to make Translations (in Verse) Of some Hymns which had not been yet translated ; which were found so Fine and so worthy to be printed, that they have been accordingly printed since, when in a more advanc'd Age he had given 'em their last Perfection. Coming to *Paris*, when he was 17 or 18 Years Old, he compos'd a very curious Ode upon the King's Marriage ; where he introduces the Nymph *de la Seine* making a kind of Epithalamium very Fine and very Ingenious. The success this Piece met with, led him to Write for the Stage, and to compose the Tragedy of *Andromachus*, which had very nigh the same Vogue as the *Cid*, when it was represented the first time. The other Plays which he gave afterwards, as *Titus*, *Bajazet*, *Iphigenia*, and *Phe-drus*,

drus, had so great a Reputation, that several People have not scrupled to compare him to the Great Corneille, and to set him in parallel with that incomparable Man. It is certain, that if Corneille surpasses him upon the Article of Heroic Sentiments, and the Greatness of Characters he gives to his Persons; the same Corneille is inferior to him in the movements of Tenderness, and in purity of Language. However it be, Monsieur Racine hath had his Partisans, and the Contest remains, in some sort, undecided. The only thing that every body is agreed upon, is, That they have both done a very great honour to our Tongue and Nation.

It was wish'd, for the Recreation of the young Ladies that are brought up in the Royal House of St. Cyr, that some Representations might be made, to give the same Delights befitting them, as these admirable Comedies. Monsieur Racine had orders to Study upon it, and to chuse a sacred Subject for the Matter of his Poem. He pitch'd upon the *History of Esther*; which he adapted so well to the Theatre, that nothing was ever more touching, more agreeable. He inserted therein a great many Chorus's to give place to the Music; which Chorus's were almost entirely workt up with most tender and most pathetic Thoughts out of the Psalms, the Prophets, and divers other places of holy Scripture. *Esther* was follow'd, the Year after, with the Tragedy of *Andromache*, which yielded not in the least to it, neither for beauty of Composition, nor for all the Ornaments employ'd for the perfection of the Spectacle. His

His Merit had already determin'd the King to chuse him, jointly with M. *Depreux* his intimate Friend, to write the History of his Reign. 'Tis a misfortune that death hath taken off Mons. *Racine* from this Work, which could not but be very Excellent, if it never so little answer'd to the Dignity of the Subject, and the Capacity of the Workmen. Mons. *de Valincour* Secretary of Count *de Toulouse*, and one of the Forty of the French Academy, very worthy to succeed Mons. *Racine*, is nominated to continue this Work with Mons. *Depreux*.

Mons. *Racine* was also of the French Academy, and was receiv'd thereto with great applause, in the Year 1673.

He purchas'd a Place of Treasurer of *France*, and after that a Place of King's Secretary; and his Majesty honour'd him with that of Gentleman in Ordinary of his Household, with the survivance for his Son.

He died aged 59 Years the 22d of Apr. 1699. at 5 a Clock in the Morning, in most lively and most edifying Sentiments of Piety. He was bury'd at *Port-Royal des Champs*, whither he was carry'd the next Day, according to the disposition of his Last Will, which contains only this Article, and is conceiv'd in these terms.

"I desire that after my death my Body may  
" be carry'd to *Port Royal des Champs*, and that  
" it be interr'd in the Church-yard at the Feet  
" of Mons. *Hamont*. I most humbly beg the  
" Mother Abbess and the Nuns to be pleas'd to  
" grant me this Honour, tho' I own my self  
" most unworthy of it, both for the Scandals of  
" my past Life, and the little use I have made  
" of the excellent Education I heretofore re-  
" ceiv'd

" ceiv'd in that House, and of the great Examples of Piety and Penitence I have there seen, and of which I have been only a barren admirer. But the more I have offended God, " the greater occasion have I for the Prayers of so Holy a Community, to draw down his Mercy upon me.

The King has settled a Pension of 2000 Livres upon his Family. His Majesty sent very often to know his Condition, during his Sicknes, and testify'd a Concern for his Death, which was lamented by the whole Court and City.

**DAVID**

## **DAVID BLONDEL,**

### History-Professor.

TIS amazing, that so great a lover of Truth as the Man whose Character I'm going upon, should be ignorant of it in the most weighty and most necessary Concern of all : For he lived and died in the Profession of the pretended reform'd Religion, whereof he was a Minister. He had a marvellous Sagacity in the well examining and clearing up a point of History, and few Persons have gone *his* length in the nicety of unfolding all its Circumstances. His strength lay in Exactness ; and Monsieur *du Puy*, Keeper of the King's Library, call'd him *The Great Datary*. He undertook thoroughly to examine the fabulous History of Pope *Joan* ; and tho' the Enemies of the Catholic Religion had cloath'd it with all the Probability it was capable of, he so well open'd all the Absurdities of it, that among those of any exact knowledge in History, it was no longer look'd upon but as a gross ill-contriv'd Fable. Among the Proofs of the Falseness of this History, the very Profession of M. *Blonde*, who refutes it, is of great consideration. He was (as a Minister) engag'd by the Interest of his Religion, to maintain this Supposition, and so could not be led to enter the Lists,

Lists, but by the plain force of Truth. *Salmasius* boasted, that if he could but see M. *Blondel's* Writing, *He would dissipate it with his Breath*, but when the Book was given him, he lived six Years afterwards without answering it, and without leaving behind him (after his death) so much as one Word upon the matter in all his Papers. *Rivetus*, with more sincerity, has written, that he doubts if *Blondel's* Book can be refuted to the satisfaction of a judicious and clear-sighted Reader.

*David Blondel*, born at *Chalons in Champagne*, was from a Boy very happy in his study of polite Learning. After he had master'd the learned Languages, as also Theology, he apply'd himself to the Ecclesiastical History, and particularly to that of the latter Empire.

He was receiv'd Minister in a Synod of the Isle of France in the Year 1614. and exercis'd his Ministry at *Houdan* near Paris in 1619. He writ that Year a Piece, entitul'd, *A modest Declaration of the Sincerity and Verity of the reform'd Churches of France*. It was an Answer to the Writings of two or three Catholic Authors, and particularly Cardinal *Ricbelieu*, who was then but Bishop of *Lugon*. This Book did him a great deal of Honour. He had always considerable Employments in the Synods. He was above twenty times Secretary in those of the Isle of France. He was four times Delegate to the National Synods, where they never fail'd to chuse him to Draw up and Digest the Acts. It was He whom the National Synod of *Castres* deputed to the King in the Year 1626. to thank his

Majesty

Majesty in the Name of the Assembly. In 1650. the Administrators of the College of *Amsterdam* made him Proposals to come thither to be History Professor; which he accepted, and thereby fill'd the Chair of *Vossius*. As he was very Laborious, the extream application he had for Study, join'd to the Humid Air of *Amsterdam*, caus'd so great a Defluxion on his Eyes, that he continu'd Blind a long while. The Humour fell afterwards upon his Breast, and he died of it the 17th of Apr. 1655. aged 64 Years. He was a Man of Honour, of a prodigious Reading, and capable of Great things. Tho' he did not Write with much Elegance neither in *Latin* nor in *French*, and his Stile also obscure, particularly occasion'd by the frequent Parentheses that clog it; yet his Works are very much sought after, because of their profound Learning, and the nicety of his Enquiries. We have of his (besides the Works I have spoken of) a very fine Answer to the Violences of *Chifflet* against the Genealogy of the House of *France*, under the Title of *Affertio Genealogiae Francicæ*; a Treatise of the *Sybils*; another, entitul'd, *De Formula regnante Christo*; and another, entitul'd, *Pseudo-Isidorus & Turrianus vapulantes*, which is a Piece against the Decretal Epistles. We have also a Treatise of his which hath for Title, *An Exposition upon the Eucharist*; and a Treatise Of *Primacy in the Church*.

He had undertaken to confute *Baronius* in most of the Passages of his Annals; but there is nothing found of all this Work, but some Notes he had written upon the Margins of his *Baronius*. A Refugè Minister (a Native of *Bearn*,

Bearn, but Residing at Amsterdam) having inserted them in a Book he made against this learned Cardinal, they have not been thought very material, no more than any of the rest that were added by the Bearnois Minister. He had two Brothers, both Ministers; one nam'd Moses, and the other Aaron, who were Men of Merit and of Learning above the generality of Men of Letters.

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ADRIAN

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## *ADRIAN VALOIS,* Historiographer-Royal.

IT will be wonder'd at, no doubt, to see here the Portrait of *Adrian Valois*, and *not that of Henry Valois*, his eldest Brother, who yielded no manner of Precedence to his younger; and who, according to the judgment of several learned Men, was entitled to Priority, no less for his *Merit*, than upon account of *Age*; but there's no \* Picture of him remaining, for he would never suffer it to be Drawn. We shall speak here of both of 'em; and this Elogium shall be common to 'em, as were almost all things during their Life.

They were both born at *Paris*, one in *September 1603.* and the other in *June 1604.* Their Father *Charles de Valois*, content with the Fortune his Parents left him, preferr'd the possession of an honest Leafure, before the Gettings of a restless and laborious Life. He was Originally of *Lisieux*, where there are still a great many Gentlemen of the same Name; but the Nobleness of Birth is an advantage which deserves but little to be dwelt

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\* Note, That in the Original of *Perrault*, printed at *Paris*, To every one of these Characters (which are here entirely translated) there is prefix'd a Copper Cut of 'em, done half-way, by *Edelinck*, and Others.

upon

upon in the Characters of Men of so much Virtue and so much Learning. *Henry*, the eldest, was sent to *Verdun* to School under the Father-Jesuits of that City. It is not credible with what Rapidity and with what Fruit he went through all his Studies. He was ever the First of his Clasps; always belov'd by his Masters, and admir'd by his Companions. In 1618. the Jesuits having been re-establish'd at *Paris*, He came thither to go through a Year's Rhetoric with Father *Petau*, and Philosophy under Father *Bruan*. In 1622. (being nineteen Years of Age) he went to learn the Law at *Bourges*, where he staid two Years; and at his return, he got himself admitted Counsellor; more to satisfie his Father, than through any inclination he had for the Profession.

He wore the Gown for above seven Years, but at length was tir'd with wearing it to no purpose, as never Pleading, nor performing any Function of a Counsellor. He had for Friends every Man in France that was any thing of a Scholar; the *Dupuis*, the *Bignons*, the *Marcas*, the *Gaulmins*, the *Nubles*, the *Launoys*, the *Ogiers*, the *Menages*; and he used their Friendship with so much discretion, that (without hurting it) he reprehended in their Writings every thing that he found faulty. He has done an infinite number of very excellent Works; But the most memorable is the Translation of *Eusebius's Ecclesiastical History*, *Socrates*, *Zosomenes*, and *Philoctorgus*, and several others, even to the Year 594. the 14th of the Reign of the Emperor *Maurice*. This History is accompany'd with Notes of most profound Learning.

After the Translation of these Greek Authors, he labour'd to give the Latin Authors that follow, *Sulpitius Severus*, *Rufinus*, *Cassiodorus*, and some others that he had collated upon several ancient Manuscripts, which he would have accompany'd with very curious Notes, if he had liv'd longer. He had also compos'd a Treatise of the *Athic Laws*, which has not seen the Light, because at that time Monsieur *Petit* publish'd a very ample Work upon the same Subject.

The Chair of Greek-Professor falling vacant in the College-Royal, and it being resolv'd to fill it with him that should be found most worthy of it, in a Dispute to be held among all those who would put in for't, He was chosen by M. *Colbert* for an Examiner that was to judge of the Merit of the several Pretenders. When the Publick wish'd for an Establishment of a Congress of learned Men for Ecclesiastical matters, where the difficulties that might occur in the understanding of the Holy Books might be examin'd and resolv'd, M. *Colbert* would have him also in the number of those excellent Men, tho' a Laic, and almost the only Man in that Assembly who was not of the Priesthood. He died in March 1676. aged 72 Years, after he had satisfy'd all the Devoirs of a true Christian, whereof he discharg'd himself most exactly in the whole course of his Life.

What I have been saying of the Manners and Doctrine of *Henry Valois*, may serve for the Elogium of *Adrian* his Brother, it being difficult to find two Brothers of more resemblance and conformity one with another. As *Henry Valois*

Valois apply'd himself particularly to the knowledge of the *Byzantine History*, Adrian Valois had taken for his task the study of the *History of France*. He gave the first Tome of it in the Year 1646. wherein he clears up the most obscure part of our History. He therein discovers the origin of the ancient French, and recounts what they did from the Emperor *Valentinian* to the death of King *Clothaire*. In 1658. He publish'd the second and third Tome, with a Treatise of *Basilics*, which is very curious. He was honour'd, as was likewise his Brother, with the Quality of Historiographer Royal, with a Pension of 1200 Livres. There appear'd in the Year 1666, a pretended Fragment of *Petronius*, found, as 'twas said, at *Trau* in *Dalmatia*. He shew'd the Falsity and Spuriousness of it by a world of incontestible Proofs, by making appear how different the Stile of this Fragment was from that of the Original. He alledges, (and therein is of his Brother's opinion) That *Petronius* was a *Gaul*, and that he lived under the Reign of *Antoninus*, and not under that of *Nero*, according to the common opinion. In 1675. He publish'd his Book, entitled, *Notitiae Galliarum*, which ought to be look'd upon as one of the most precious Fruits of his learned Labours. He is there amaz'd that *Ptolemy* has not describ'd the *Gauls* with the same care as the other Provinces of the Empire; And assuredly the Exactness he used in his Notes, gives him a right to reproach that neglect of *Ptolemy's*.

He died the 2d of July 1692. After his death, his Son caus'd to be print'd a Collec-

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dition of several things that he had heard him speak, under the name of *Valesiana*, whereto he has added a Collection of his Latin Poetry, which are of a Stile very Neat and very Elegant.

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SAMUEL

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## SAMUEL BOCHART.

THE profound Learning of him I'm going to speak of, undeniably challenges a place in this Volume, and gives him an incontestable right to be put in the number of the illustrious Men of his Age. He was born at *Rouen* of *Rene Bochart* Minister of that City, and of *Esther du Moulin*, Daughter of *Peter du Moulin*, the famous Minister of *Charenton*. He was of the illustrious Family of *Bochart Champigny*, of the Branch of *Menillet*.

We may judge of the progress he made in the study of polite Literature by the 40 Greek Verses he compos'd when he was but thirteen Years of Age, in praise of *Numa Dempster*, who publish'd them at the head of his *Roman Antiquities*. He made his Philosophy at *Sau-mur*, where he maintain'd *Theses* with all imaginable applause. At his return from *Eng-land*, (where he staid some time with *Cameroni-us* his Master in Theology, whom he had follow'd thither) he apply'd himself (under *Thomas Erpenius*) to the study of *Arabick*, which he master'd, as also the *Hebrew*, and most of the other Oriental Tongues. He was afterwards receiv'd Minister of *Caen*, where the first thing of note he did, was a Dispute against Father *Veron*; in which, by his Wit, and the help of his Learning, he ob-

M 3 tain'd

tain'd all the advantage he could hope for in defending a bad Cause.

His Reputation encreas'd mightily by the Publication of *Phaleg and Canaan*, containing a Sacred Geography of all the Countries through which the People were dispers'd after the Confusion of Tongues at the Tower of *Babel*. Nothing is equal to the curious Enquiries there are in this Book, and the profoundness of Learning that appears throughout. He afterwards gave a Book, entitul'd, *De Animalibus Sacrae Scripturae*, where he describes and explains the Nature of all the Animals that are spoken of in the Old and New Testament. He also made several Treatises of Minerals, Plants, and Precious Stones, mention'd in Holy Scripture ; as also a Treatise of the *Earthly Paradise*. He apply'd himself to these sort of Works, because he had undertaken to preach upon *Genesis*. He did not at first believe he should have carry'd this kind of Study so far ; but he was insensibly engag'd in it, by the connexion which these Matters have one with another. The Treatise of Animals was printed at *London* in 1663. under the Title of *Hierozoicon*. It was reprinted at *Francfort* in 1675. and at *Leyden* in 1692.

The Queen of *Sweden*, pre-engag'd by the great Reputation of *M. Bochart*, invited him to her Court, and gave him a very honourable Reception and Treatment. The young Fellows that were about the Queen, have made a hundred idle Tales upon the Voyage he made into *Sweden* ; tho' nothing occasion'd it but his high Reputation, and the Gravity acquir'd by his great Merit.

He

He publish'd a Letter in 1650. upon the Authority of Kings, and upon the Institution of Bishops and Priests; another in 1651. against the Jesuit *la Barre*, touching the Toleration of Lutheranism given in the National Synod of *Charenton*; and at length a Third, where he shews by several learned Reasons, that there is no appearance that *Aeneas* ever came into *Italy*. He was of the Academy of *Caen*, compos'd at that time of several excellent Men.

He died suddenly in that Academy, on Monday the 16th of May in the Year 1667. It has been believ'd, that his death was caused by Discontent, for having heard an Answer read to certain Propositions he had advanc'd, which convinc'd him of some considerable Errors. But 'tis not credible that a Man of his Moderation and good Sense should suffer any such impression for a thing so natural, and so common to the greatest Men. This Rumour was only spread about by an ill custom there is of attributing to Moral Causes the death of many a Man, which is commonly the sole Effect of a Cause purely Physical.

He was a Man of real Honour, and of an Uprightnes entirely singular, a passionate lover of his Friends, and lov'd by them as well. His Erudition was extreamly profound, and the strength of this Erudition consisted particularly in a great use of Prophane Learning, join'd to a most consummate knowledge of the Oriental Tongues, and a long study of the *Letter* of the holy Scripture.

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## GILES MENAGE.

**G**iles Menage was undoubtedly one of the most excellent Grammarians of his time. Yet he was often heard to say, "That he had learnt the Latin Tongue to that degree, as to understand it and speak it readily, almost without any help from Grammar Rules. He satisfy'd himself with knowing the Declensions and Conjugations; and the reading of Authors, (with the assistance of Translations and Dictionaries) gave him a perfect understanding of the Tongue. Then he pass'd to Philosophy; afterwards he turn'd himself to the Study of the Law. His Father, who was the King's Council in the Pre-fidial of *Angers*, being impatient to make him capable of executing the Place he was minded to give him; the Penetration of his Wit, and the Faithfulness of his Memory, which never lost any thing that was committed to it, render'd him in a short time very Able in that Science. But his great inclination to Polite Learning not at all agreeing with the crabbed unpalatable Study requir'd for the exercise of Offices of Judicature, He took, out of the Roman Law, only what was curious and agreeable; whereof he made a Collection, which he gave to the Public, under the Title of *Amanitates Juris*. In this turn of Mind, He could  
not

not prevail with himself to execute his Father's Office, but sent the Commission back to him again; and because this embroil'd them together, he said pleasantly enough, That he had lost his Father's favour, *because he had render'd him a bad Office.*

He passionately lov'd Poesie, and excell'd at it, in Greek, Latin, French, and Italian. 'Tis commonly *Imagination* that makes Poets: In him it was *Memory*, accompany'd with an exquisite taste for all good things. For his Poetry, to take it rightly, is scarce any thing else but a *Tissu* or *Mas* of what is best in all the other Poets, wrought with all the Artfulness and Delicacy imaginable. There have been several Impressions of 'em, which have always been well receiv'd by the Public. His great Learning, and the neatness of his Works, won him the Esteem and Friendship of all the Men of Letters, not only of *France*, but of all *Europe*, through which he was almost every where equally known.

The Queen of *Sweden* gave him frequent Testimonies of her Esteem; and upon her signifying, That she would be very glad to have him come and settle in *Sweden*, He compos'd an admirable Eglogue, where (without departing from his Subject) he brings in all that has been ever said in that kind of Poetry. Once every Week, he held at his House a meeting of learned Men. Towards his latter end, being upon his Knees at *Notre Dame* on a Good Friday, he put his Hip out of joint in going to raise himself up, and afterwards by a Fall he had at *Vitry*, his Shoulder also was dislocated, which putting him out of a condition of going

ing abroad, He kept every Day a sort of Academy, which was one of the most agreeable Assignations in all Paris for Men of Letters. Every thing new that happen'd, particularly in the Commonwealth of Learning, was carry'd thither; and upon all occasions whatever, of Novelty, M. *Menage* fail'd not to cite something either of the Ancients or the Moderns, which was perfectly *à propos* to the same Subject. They never concluded these Conferences, without carrying off an infinity of Things, useful, curious, and agreeable. The excellence of his *Italian Poesie* oblig'd the Academy *la Crusca* to send him Letters of Admission, esteeming it a great Honour done to themselves to have him of their Society. It will be always wonder'd at, That he was not of the French Academy. The Public has been scandaliz'd at it, and the Academy repented it. What prevented at first the thoughts of it on both sides, was, That he attack'd the Academy in its Infancy by a Satyr he made against her, and which for being very Witty and very Ingenious, was no less displeasing to that Society. It was a Petition presented to the Academy by All the Dictionaries, complaining that the Dictionary they were making would be their utter ruin. The intent of this Piece seem'd obliging; but it was so thick sown with the Teeth of Satyr, it destroy'd all thoughts of admitting him into a Society he had so little spar'd. When Time had in some sort worn off the remembrance of this Work, the Academy and He testify'd a reciprocal desire of seeing themselves together; but being at length presented to fill a Place that was vacant, it was carry'd against him by the

the Cabals of a Party. After which he declar'd he would think no more of it, and begg'd his Friends never to propose it, with greater earnestness, than when he desir'd 'em at first to give him their Vote.

Besides his *Poems* (whereof the Collection is in the hands of the whole World, and have done him honour where-ever there's any knowledge of Polite Learning) and his *Amenitatis Juris* spoken of before, He hath compos'd an History of the Family and Territory *de Sable*, wherein there are an infinity of very curious things touching the Province of *Anjou*, his Native Country. He was finishing, when he died, *An Etymological Dictionary of the French Tongue*. This Work had been preceded by another of the same nature, but not so copious by much, which yet declares *no less* his great knowledge in the Art of Grammar, as likewise in the Book he hath compiled under the Title of *Remarks upon the French Tongue*.

I have already said, that he was one of the best Grammarians France ever saw, tho' he hardly ever made any use of a Grammar in his Infancy to learn the Latin Tongue; and I repeat it here to remark, That perhaps there's no great reason in fatiguing Children, as is commonly done in Schools, by tedious Analytical Methods, unintelligible to them, as being rather Lessons of a refin'd Metaphysic, than Rules of simple Grammar. As, indeed, we cannot work the Memory of Children too much, it then being in its strength, and wants nothing but filling; so we cannot be too tender of their *Infant-Reason*, which must be left to grow in quiet; because we disorder, obscure, and even

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even extinguish it sometimes, by endeavouring to draw from it too much Service before the Age that is design'd it for Acting.

He died at Paris the 23d of July 1692. He left his Library to the Father Jesuits *de la Maison Professe*: Father Ayrault, his Relation, who assisted at his last Hours, contributed not a little in procuring this Legacy to their Society.

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ISAAC

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## *ISAAC de BENSERADE,* Of the *French Academy.*

**N**O body, perhaps, had ever more vivacity of Wit than the Person I'm going to speak of; and this Vivacity (which shone out from the first Years of his Infancy) continu'd without flagging to the end of his Life.

*Isaac de Benserade* was born at *Lions*, a City of Normandy, near *Rouen*. His Father was Great Master of the Waters and Forests, and 'tis aver'd, that one of his Ancestors was Chamberlain to one of our Kings, and Chastelain of the Castle of *Milan*. On his Mother's side he was ally'd to the House of *Vignerot* and *la Porte*. This Extraction, join'd to the Fineness of his Wit, gave him an honest Assurance, which made him familiar with the greatest Lords at Court, by whom he was tenderly belov'd, and who were no less industrious in gaining *him* for their Friend, than he was of making his court to *them*.

At the time when he was to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, he was carry'd (over Night) to wait upon the Bishop, who was to confirm him. The Bishop seeing him very lively for his Age, (for he was not then above six or seven Years old) and understanding that they call'd him *Isaac*, (a Name at that time common

common amongst the Hugonots, of which number his Father had been a long time) he ask'd him, *If he would not change his Name? What will you give me to boot,* answer'd little *Benserade?* *We give nothing to boot for the change of a Name,* answer'd the Bishop. *Then I'll keep my own,* reply'd he. *Thou art very much in the right, my Child,* (says the Bishop to him smiling) *for let thy Name be what it will, thou'l know how to make it valuable.*

When he left the College, he compos'd three or four Pieces for the Theatre, among others, *Mark Anthony*, *Iphis*, &c. Cardinal *de Richelieu* esteem'd him much, and was his Benefactor, and the Queen-Mother gave him a Pension of 3000 Livres. He devoted himself to Admiral *de Brezé*, whom he follow'd in all his Expeditions; and after his death he return'd to Court, where he shone more than ever.

Tho' he lived very familiarly with the best Lords of the Kingdom, (as I have already observ'd) yet he carry'd himself with great Circumspection. He would say to his Friends sometimes; *You wonder at my manner of speaking to the greatest Lords;* *Know that I am always upon my guard with them, and that no body is more observant than I am of the Longs and the Shorts in speaking to them.* They are Lions, (added he) who by their affected Careless lay Snares for me every moment. They would be glad if something would escape me, that they might have the pleasure of giving me a stroke with their Paw; but thanks be to God, I have never given them that sort of Diversion.

He was well made in his Person, and of a very easie Shape, very Neat, and very Gallant; a quality he retain'd even when he was Old, without being at all ridiculous; which to do in an advanc'd Age, requires a great deal of Wit and good Sense. His Poesies have been (for above forty Years) the Delights of the Court, and of all France, particularly during the time of the King's Youth, by admirable Verses he made for the *Balets* (or Interludes) which his Majesty used to Dance or caus'd to be Danc'd every Winter. These Verses are of a kind entirely new, and of which he was the first Inventor. Before him the Verses of a *Balet* spoke only of the Persons *represented*, and not at all of the Persons *representing*. M. de Benserade turn'd his Verses after a manner that made them equally applicable to both. And as the King sometimes represented *Jupiter*, and sometimes *Neptune*, at other times *Mars* or the *Sun*, nothing was more agreeable nor more wonderful altogether, than the finenes of the Praises he gave his Majesty, without directing himself to Him. The Stroak was levell'd upon the Person *represented*, and the Counter-stroak upon the Person *representing*. This caus'd a double pleasure, by giving to understand two things at once; which being Beautiful separately, became much more so, being join'd together. It was the same with respect to all the Lords and Ladies of the Court who used to Dance with the King in these same *Balets*; Their Qualities, their Talents, and even sometimes their Intrigues, were touch'd therein so delicately, that they could not help laughing at 'em *first*, themselves.

His

His other Poesies were no less Originals. He never imitated any body ; the Gallantry which animates them is quite new, and has no Pattern in the most polite Antiquity, either Greek or Roman. The Ancients thought only of inserting Passion in their Love-Verses ; M. *Benserade* hath mixt a gallant Pleasantry which pleas'd every body.

Cardinal *Mazarine* esteem'd his Poetry very much, and did him the honour to say, That in his Youth he had made Verses which resembled those of *Benserade*. He procur'd him a Pension of 2000 Livres, and another of 1000 Crowns upon the Abby St. *Eloy*. In sending to a Lady of Quality a Paraphrase upon the Book of *Job*, he sent along with it a Sonnet, which made a great Noise, and which concludes with these Verses, speaking of *Job* :

*Sil souffrit des Maux incroyables ;  
Il s'en pleignit, il en parla ;  
J'en conois des plus miserables.*

*Amidst his Ills, which we with pain believe,  
Still he could Grieve, —  
His mighty Sufferings Tell, —  
There are who feel a more tormenting Hell.*

As this Sonnet pleas'd extreamly ; They who did not relish the great Commendations that were given him, pretended that it was nothing near so good as a Sonnet of *Voiture's*, which they set against it, and which *Voiture* had made for a Lady under the Name of *Urania*. All *Paris* was divided upon this Dispute : They form'd themselves as it were into two Parties,

Parties, whereof those for *Benserade* call'd themselves the *Jobelin* Party, and those for *Voiture*, the Party of the *Uranians*. The Question was left undecided; and 'twas only agreed, That if *Voiture's* was more Beautiful in the opinion of some, that of *Benserade's* was the more Gallant in the opinion of every body.

He has done all *Ovid's Metamorphoses* in *Rondeaux*, whereof there are several which are very Beauiful. Each *Rondeau* recites what is essential in every Fable, with very ingenious, and very agreeable Morals. The King was pleas'd to be at the Charge of all the Cuts of this Book, which are very Fine, and in great Numbers. The richness and choice of Rhime in these *Rondeaux*; and of all his Works, have something surprizing; for it is certain, that no body ever Rhim'd better than *Benserade*.

He has done several *Works of Devotion*; among others, *The Office of the Virgin*, with several Prayers, and all the Psalms of *David*.

He died at *Paris* the 15th of *October* 1691. aged 78 Years, with all the Sentiments of a true Christian; and after he had endur'd very great Pains, caus'd by a retention of Urine, and the Stone, for which he had resolv'd to be Cut.

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*John de la Quintinie,*  
Director of all the King's  
Fruit and Kitchen-Gar-  
dens.

‘T IS assuredly a very great advantage towards succeeding in any Profession, To be born of Parents who *have* exercis'd the same, or who *do* exercise it with applause. Precepts are *then* practis'd almost without trouble; and by the addition of some *New* Notions to the *Hereditary*, ‘tis next to impossible not be Excellent above others. Yet it often happens, that when Men of an extraordinary Genius, and design'd by Birth to something more Elevated, find themselves as it were carry'd away by their natural Inclination, to Professions below themselves; the progress They make therein is much more considerable; So true it is that the Vocation of Nature, if we may so say, is better worth than *that* of Birth and Destination of Parents.

*John de la Quintinie* was born near Poitiers in the Year 1626. and was put to School with the Jesuits of that City. As soon as he had finish'd his course of Philosophy, and taken some Lessons of Law, He came to Paris to be

be call'd to the Bar. He was by Nature Eloquent; The Art he join'd to this happy gift of Birth, got him in a short time a great Reputation at the Bar, and the Countenance and Favour of the Chief Magistrates.

Monfieur *Tambonneau*, President in the Chamber of Accounts, being inform'd of his Merit, was desirous to see him; and was of opinion, that he could not procure for his Son (whom he tenderly lov'd) a greater Advantage, than to put him under the Direction of so able a Man; which he did, and allow'd him very considerably. Tho' this Employ left him but little time to his own disposal, yet he found Opportunities of satisfying the Passion he had for Agriculture. He set himself therefore to read *Columella*, *Varro*, *Virgil*, and all the other ancient Authors which have treated of that Subject, as also every thing that the Moderns have written of it; so that he attain'd all the Theory which could possibly be had of this delightful Art.

About that time, he made a Voyage into *Italy* with Monsieur *Tambonneau* his Disciple, where seeing what was practis'd there in Gardening, it gave him an opportunity of making an infinite many Curious and very Useful Reflexions. He only wanted to join Practice and Experience to his Theory; which he did, when he return'd to *Paris*. M. *Tambonneau* left his Garden entirely to him, wherein he planted every thing he had a mind to. He made a world of Experiments before he determin'd himself. In order to know throughly, how Nature operates in the Production of Roots; He planted on the same Day several Trees of the

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same kind, and afterwards he pluck'd 'em up one after another from Week's-end to Week's-end, to see the beginning, the progress, and the accomplishment of the Production of the Roots.

He found (what was unknown before) ‘That a Tree transplanted, does not take Nourishment, but by the Roots it has struck after its being replanted, which are as so many Mouths, whereby it attracts the nutritive Moisture of the Earth, and in no wise by the small hairy Roots that were remaining to it. From hence he hath taught us, That instead of preserving these old small Roots, (as was formerly with great care practis'd in removing a Tree) it is better to cut them off, for that they commonly grow dry and moulder; which *hurts* the Tree, instead of *helping* it. He hath also discover'd, by his Experiments, the certain and infallible method of Cutting and Trimming of Trees. Before him, they hardly thought of any thing else, (in cutting and trimming a Tree) but only to give it a fine Form, and to free it from the Branches that shadow'd it. He understood, and afterwards taught, what was to be done to force a Tree to give Fruit, and to give it in places where you would have it come, nay even to spread it equally upon all its Branches; a thing which had never been done, nor thought of, nor even believ'd possible. He argu'd, and every Day's experience confirms it, “ That a Fruit-Tree which hath too much vigour, and which is left entirely to it self, ordinarily shoots out nothing but Branches and Leaves: That we ought with Industry to repress the strong tendency

" tendency it has to labour only for its own  
" Profit; that we must cut from it certain  
" thick Branches to which it carries almost  
" all its Sap, and oblige it thereby to nou-  
" rish the other Branches that are weak, and  
" as it were deserted, Because they are the  
" only ones that bear Fruit in abundance. We  
should transcribe here almost all the excellent  
Book he has left us under the Title of, *Instruc-*  
*tions for Fruit and Kitchen Gardens*, if we  
would report all the Discoveries for which we  
are indebted to him.

This Book, which hath had the approba-  
tion of all *Europe*, has been translated into  
*English*, and there's reason to believe that it  
will be so into all other Tongues.

*Monsieur* the Prince, who like several other  
great Personages, join'd the *peaceable love of*  
*Agriculture* to the *tumultuous passion of War*,  
took an extream pleasure in hearing him dis-  
course of his Art. The late King of *England*,  
who gave him a great many marks of his E-  
steem in the two Voyages he made into *Eng-*  
*land*, made him Proposals of a very considera-  
ble Pension to retain him for the Culture of his  
Gardens: But the love of his Country, and  
the pre-sentiment he perhaps had of the Ser-  
vices he should one day render to the King,  
prevented him from closing with these advan-  
tageous Offers. He gain'd in these two Voy-  
ages the Friendship of several Lords, with whom  
he maintain'd till his death, an intercourse of  
Letters. These Letters, which on his part al-  
ways contain'd some Instructions for *Gardening*,  
have been, most of 'em, printed at *London*, to  
render 'em of universal Benefit.

The King for his sake encreas'd the number of his House-hold Officers, by creating the charge of *Director-General of the Fruit and Kitchen-Gardens of all his Royal Houses*, whereof M. Colbert drew up the Constitution, and sent it to him.

As soon as he was provided of this Employ, he caus'd a considerable augmentation in the old Kitchen-Garden at *Versailles*, where the beautifulness of the Fruits, and the excellency of the Pulse and Herbage he made it produce, was what led his Majesty to make That *Potagerie* that now we see, which is and will be for a long time the admiration of all that see it, and particularly of Foreigners, who have nothing at home that comes near it.

He had three Sons by *Margaret Faubert* his Wife. The eldest and the youngest died before him, and the second (who was an Abbot) surviv'd him no longer than was just necessary to cause the excellent Book aforesaid to be printed. The King was pleas'd to tell his Widow, some Days after his death, *That he was as great a Sufferer by it as she; and that he despair'd of ever repairing the loss of him by any other Person.*

JOHN

## JOHN VARIN, Director and Graver-General of the Coins of France.

When Nature undertakes to make an Artist, she succeeds better than the Arts themselves, with all their Precepts, and with the Instruction of all the Masters; of which *John Varin* is a very convincing proof. He was a Native of *Liege*, Son of *Peter Varin*, Sieur de *Blanchard*, and Gentleman to the Count de *Rochefort*, Sovereign Prince of the Empire. He was given to that Prince at 11 or 12 Years of Age to be his Page; and having apply'd himself from the very beginning (by his sole Inclination) to Design and Draw at such times, when the Exercises of Riding, Fencing, Dancing, and Vaulting afforded him leisure; He succeeded therein wonderfully. As Designing is the road to Painting, Sculpture, and Graving, he made himself equally skilful in these three Arts; and being naturally very Industrious, he contriv'd several most ingenious Machines to coin the Medals he had graved.

The King (*Louis XIII.*) being inform'd of his Capacity, sent for him to *Paris*, gave him Letters of Naturalization, and retain'd him to Work both at the Coin and Medals. Some short time afterwards, the Office of Master and Ge-

neral Director of the Mints of France falling vacant by the death of René Olivier, he was receiv'd into it.

He made about that time the Seal of the French Academy, which is nothing but the Image of Cardinal Richelieu; but so resembling, and wrought with so much Art, that it passes without Contradiction for one of the Finest that ever was made in that kind. It was shew'd to Cardinal Richelieu, who was charm'd with it, and said publickly, *That the Man who had made so fine a Piece of Workmanship, deserved to be Immortal.* The King (Louis XIII.) having resolv'd to make a general conversion of all the light pieces of Gold and Silver thro' the whole extent of his Kingdom, the Sieur Varin was chosen to have the entire Direction of this Reform, (which was establish'd in the Lower Gallery of the Louvre) and above all, to make the Poingons and the Dies of all the Coins. Upon occasion of these two Employments, the King created for him two Offices, one of Director-General of the Coin of France, and the other Graver-General of the Poingons of the same Coins. All those which he made were so exceedingly Beautiful, that there are a great many Curioso's, who preserve and keep 'em as Medals, which yield not in any thing to the most valuable Medals of Antiquity. Wherever they circulated, they were look'd upon with admiration; and even the Turks, who are not very sensible of the Curiosities of Art, were so delighted with the smallest Pieces, that they made of 'em the finest Ornament of their Cloathes, and fasten'd them in

every  
Island

every part. There was made about the same time some \* Trial-pieces of 8 or 10 Pistolets, which may be put in the rank of the finest Medallions. All the Coin that was minted during the King's minority, (and which is of the same elegance with that which bears the Impress of *Louis XIII.*) is also the Workmanship of the Sieur *Varin*, as well for the Directing-part, as for the *Poingons* and *Dies*, all which he graved with his own Hand.

It is he that has made all the Medals of *Louis XIII.* That of the Queen-Mother *Ann of Austria*; That of the King after his minority; That of his Coronation; and several others upon occasion of divers great Events of his Reign. He made the Medals that were put under the Foundations of the Frontispiece of the *Louvre*, The Observatory, The Church of *Val de Grace*, That of *Monsieur* the King's Brother, The Prince of *Condé*, Cardinal *Mazarine*, Queen of *Sweden*, Monsieur *Colbert*, and several other Persons of Distinction; all admirable Pieces, and which make the principal Ornament of the Cabinets of the Curious. From the time he left off Working, there has been nothing done so Fine; tho' they who came after him, have (as one may say) *stood upon his Shoulders*, by seeing his Work. He made a *Buste* (a Statue done half-way) of the King, which rivals in Beauty the most excellent Pieces of Antiquity, tho' 'tis his first Essay in Marble. He afterwards made a Figure of his Majesty, in Marble also, about 7 or 8 Foot high, which

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\* *Pieds-forts* they call 'em in French: It is a piece of Gold, Silver, &c. a great deal thicker than pieces of common Coin, and is ordinarily struck to serve for a trial.

is of an extraordinary Elegance. He made a Buste of his Majesty in Brads, very worthy of all his other Works. Mons. de Menars, President *au Mortier*, has a Buste of Gold of Cardinal Richelieu, weighing 55 *Louis-d'Ors*, by the hand of the same Varin, and is look'd upon as one of the best Pieces in that kind that hath ever been made. Besides his three Offices relating to the Mints, He was also King's Secretary, Counsellor of State, and Surveyor of his Majesty's Buildings.

He died at Paris the 26th of August 1672. aged 68 Years. He was of a Constitution to live much longer, and 'tis thought he was poison'd by Villains to whom he had refus'd his Mint-stamps.

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PHILIP

## *PHILIP COLLOT,* Operator for the Extracti- on of the Stone.

IF those who are eminent in the practice of the beauteous Arts deserve the Name of Illustrious, and ought to be rais'd by Elogiums above the bulk of Mankind, tho' oftentimes these charming Arts, such as *Music* and *Painting*, have no other tendency, but a slight satisfaction of the Senses, and which We may very easily bear the want of; How much of this kind of Recompence is more rightfully due to *those* who have excell'd in Arts of infinite Use, and which aim at the delivery of Mankind from the most racking Tortures, and even from Death it self, which without *their* help would be unavoidable? *Elogiums* would not suffice heretofore, and they were fain to raise *Statues* to 'em.

Such an one was he I'm going to speak of, and such were his Father, his Grandfather, and great Grandfather; and since him, his Son and his Grandsons, who have all had the Gift of Cutting for the Stone with a singular Dexterity, and a success almost always fortunate.

There's

III

There's no certainty of time when this Distemper began to be known; 'tis believ'd that Mankind have been always afflicted with it, and that if it hath not at all been spoken of, it is, that it pass'd for a Foul Distemper in the first Ages, and was conceal'd as such. *Hippocrates* has written of it, and has even declar'd that he never made the Operation, because he thought it too perillous. 'Tis his own confession in his Oath, wherein he charges with that Operation Those who make it their particular Profession. Thus we scarce see any Chirurgeon, practising the other parts of Chirurgery, that has become skilful in this, as well in regard of the *Petit Appareil*, which is very ancient, as of the *Grand Appareil*, which was invented but in the Year 1525. by one *John des Romains* a Native of Cremona, who communicated his Secret to *Marianus Sanctus des Barlettes*, Doctor of Phyfic at Padua. This *Marianus* taught it to one *Olavius de Ville*, who was Master to the great Grandfather of him I'm speaking of, call'd *Laurence Collot*. He practis'd Phyfic in the Town of Tresnel in Champagne, where he perform'd a great many Operations, which made him very famous.

In the Year 1556. *Henry II.* order'd him to come to Paris, and to settle there. He gratify'd him with a considerable Present, made him Chirurgeon of his House, and created for him a Place of Operator for the Stone, which hath been possess'd by his Descendants down to the present Sieur *Collot*, who might also have had it, if he had been minded to give for it the Mony that was demanded.

He was at that time the only Person who by the death of *Olivian de Ville* was instructed in the Secret of the *Grand Appareil*. He taught it his Son, who render'd himself no less dextrous nor less celebrated than his Father. 'Tis of them that *Ambrosius Paré* speaks in his Treatise of Monsters; where, after reporting several Examples of the curious Operations they had made, he protests, He does not believe that either the Father or Son ever had their like in their Profession. This Son was Father of a third *Laurence Collot*, who inherited their Ability, and gave Life to *Philip Collot*, the Person whose Elogium I undertake.

*Philip Collot* was born in the Year 1593. and as soon as he was of an Age to put in practice the Precepts of the Art of his Fathers, he not only did it with all the Dexterity he held of Them, but Clear'd their manner of Operating from every thing belonging to it that was boisterous and difficult; so that in his time, and since him, few have died under the Operation, or in the Consequence of it. He was so taken up with the great number of Patients he had at *Paris*, that the Cardinal *Chigi* (since Pope, under the Name of *Alex. VII.*) being minded to oblige him to come to *Cologne*, where he was ill of the Stone, Monsieur *Collot* could not give him that satisfaction; He sent to him the Sieur *Girault*, his Nephew, whom he had instructed, and with whom he was associated. It is true, that in process of time a great many Chirurgeons have made wonderful Proficiency in the same Art: But as it is of him and his Ancestors that they have gather'd every thing they know, or have known; the more numer-

ous

ious They are, the greater is the Obligation to *Him*, for having made common a Remedy so Useful and of so great Relief for the Distressed.

It is nevertheless true, that how excellent soever this Person was in his Operations, there have been Improvements made of *his* Methods. His Grandson, now living, and who is the sixth from Father to Son in possession of this precious Talent, has found a way to prevent almost all the Danger, and a great part of the Pain, in performing the Operation at two different times ; making only the Incision the first Day, and deferring to Extract the Stone eight Days longer, when the Wound ceases to be tender. But as the nature of every thing is to improve with Time, and that also this Invention comes from his Son, it cannot be said, that it was altogether unknown to *Him*. The Son saw himself oblig'd to Cut his Father for the Stone. There was a report, as if, not being able to resolve upon it, he was constrain'd to it by a Decree of Parliament. But this Circumstance is not true. There was nothing that engag'd him to this Operation, but a laudable and vigorous Resolution, both on his Father's part, and his own. It would be to the purpose here to recount all the Cures wrought by this Series of able Men in their time, in like manner as we report the Works of the Learned ; And as to perserve a Man's Life, or at least to deliver him from so great a pain, is no less valuable than to compose a Book of any kind, we ought to render him the same honour. But the number is too great. And besides, there's no body but what knows a great many of these kind of Patients, restor'd to perfect Health.

He

He died at *Lugon*, aged 63 Years. He went thither to undertake a Patient in the beginning of *March 1656*.

He is blamable for one thing, which was common to him with his Ancestors and Descendants; and that is, For having kept conceal'd the Secret they had, and not communicating it to any Man of their Profession. They might ha' made this Present to the Public, without doing themselves any injury, since People would always have had recourse to them preferably to all others. Secrets may be kept in Families, when they only tend to a simple Curiosity; but when they're of use for the preservation of Life, It should seem that they ought to be put, as much as possible, into the hands of all the World, even tho' it cannot be done without suffering some prejudice.

**SIMON**

## **SIMON VOUET,** Chief Painter to the King.

Those who are born to succeed in any Art, or in any Science, are seldom long before they give indications of the Ability to which they are one day to arrive. Scarce had *Simon Vouet* (Son to an ordinary Painter at Paris) attain'd to the Age of 14, but he was chosen to go into *England* to take the Portrait of a Lady of Great Quality, who had departed *France* to retire to *London*. A short time after, Monsieur *Harlay*, Baron de *Sancy* (being sent Ambassador to *Constantinople*) carry'd him with him to Draw the Picture of the *Grand Seignior*. Tho' 'twas a thing almost impossible, because of the difficulty of seeing him, which could be but *once*, when the Ambassador had Audience, yet he observ'd him so well, that when he return'd he made a Portrait of him very resembling and very satisfactory to all those who had seen the Sultan. From *Constantinople*, where he Drew several Pictures, he went to *Venice*, and thence to *Rome*, and gain'd wonderful Reputation in those two great Cities. The noise he made there having reach'd *France*, the King (*Louis XIII.*) gave him a Pension of 400 Livres to assist him in his Studies; and this Pension increas'd from Year to

to Year, as also his Capacity and Merit. He made a Voyage to *Genoa* in 1620. where he Work'd for Seignior *Doria* and some other Persons of Quality for one Year. Returning to *Rome*, he was chosen Prince of the Academy of St. *Luke*, and did several fine Pieces there : Among others, That which he painted at St. *Laurence* in *Lucina*, and That which is in St. Peter's Church at the Great Altar of the Chapel, (where the Canons perform their daily Office.)

The King having cast his Eyes upon him to make him his Chief Painter, and to set him over all his Works of Painting, which were going forward for the Ornament of his Royal Houses, as also the Direction of his Tapestry, Mons<sup>t</sup>. de *Bethune*, then Ambassador at *Rome*, had orders, in the beginning of the Year 1627. to cause him to come Home. The King receiv'd him with a great deal of Kindness, and as his Majesty took a singular pleasure in Painting, he caus'd him to Draw in *Pastel* (Dry-Colours) the Portraits of most of the Lords at Court, and of his Officers. His Majesty was also pleas'd to be his Disciple in the Art of designing and painting in *Pastel*, for his Diversion, and to make the Portraits of his most familiar Courtiers ; and not without success ; for there are seen at this day several Pieces of his Majesty's Hand, which have an Air of much Resemblance.

In the Year 1632. He painted the Gallery and Chapel of the Royal Palace, and the Chapel of the House of Cardinal *Richelieu* at *Ruel*. He had already Workt at *Chilli* for the Marechal *d'Effiat*, Superintendant of the Exchequer,

and for the President *de Fourcy*, Surveyor of the King's Buildings, in his House of *Chef*. It is He that hath painted the Gallery and several other places of the House of Monsieur *de Bullion*, Superintendant of the Exchequer, and almost all that there is in the *Hôtel de Seguier*. The Pieces he did for private Men, are too numerous to be possibly reported here. There's scarce a Church or Palace at *Paris* which is not adorn'd with his Works. He has done a great many Pieces of the Virgin, and had a peculiar Talent in *that* Representation.

Whatever skill he had in his Art, it may however be said, That his greatest Merit consists in the great number of eminent Scholars he brought up, and to have been in some measure, *The Restorer of Painting*. It is his School that hath sent forth *le Brun*, *Mignard*, *le Sueur*, *Person*, *Corneille*, *Tortubat*, *du Fresne*, and several Others; but he has not only made Painters, he also made extraordinary Men in all the Parts which depend upon *Design*.

Mons. *le Nostre* learnt to Design under him, and is beholding to him for part of that Great Ability which he has acquir'd in the fine Contrivance of *Parterres* (Flower-plots) and other Ornaments of Gardening. His first Manner retain'd to that of *Valentin*; and he has done upon that taste several Pieces that have a great deal of Strength. Afterwards, he took to a manner peculiar to himself, and which hath scarce been imitated and preserv'd to the last, but by *Dorigni* his Son-in-law, and one of his Disciples. What he was most commendable for, was, the freedom and briskness of his Pen, which charm'd the Sight, by the lively opposition

position of Shades and Lights; tho' for the most part they were a little too strong and too deep.

He died the 5th of June 1641, aged 59 Years, 6 Months. He is bury'd in the Church of St. John en Greve.

O 2 J A M.

and not odd; and his colouring is  
not bad, though not equal to the best.

## JAM. BLANCHART, Painter.

There never was a Painter so equally strong in all the parts of Painting, but he excell'd in *some one* much more than in *the others*. He, of whom I speak, did so eminently distinguish himself in the *Colouring*, which was so beautiful, so florid, and so natural, that he was commonly call'd the *Georgione*, or the *Titian of France*. This precious Talent was follow'd very close by the *Designing part* also; and 'tis that which has occasion'd his doing so many fine Pieces, so delighted in by the Curious; tho' his Life was of no long duration.

*James Blanchart* was born at *Paris* the 1st of *Odgob.* 1600. He was Son of *Gabriel Blanchart*, Native of *Coindrieu*, who having been deputed to *Paris* upon Affairs of his Town, and happening to lodge at the House of *Jerom Boleri*, (the best Painter of his time) marry'd his Daughter, by whom he had three Children, *James, Peter and John*; the eldest is the Person I'm to speak of.

So soon as he had begun to make some Progress in the Art of Painting with his Master *Jerom Boleri*, he took the resolution of travelling into *Italy*. In his Journy, at *Lyon*, he was stopt by *Henry le Blanc*, a Painter of great Repu-

Reputation ; who finding him a Natural and Agreeable Pencil , got him to finish several Works (which he had begun for sundry private Men) before he went to Paris, whither he was call'd by Monsieur d'Angoulesme to paint the Gallery of the Castle of Gros-Bois.

He wish'd extreamly that *Blanchart* would have come to *Paris* to assist him in the Work of that Gallery ; but the desire *Blanchart* had to perfect himself in the Profession he had embrac'd, not suffering him to accept of that Proposal, he took the Road to *Rome*, where he was no sooner arriv'd, but *John Blanchart*, his Brother, who had engag'd himself in the same Profession, came to him, and assisted him in his Works.

In twelve Months time, Affairs took such a turn at *Rome*, that it was no place of Safety for the French. This put him upon going to *Venice*, where he apply'd himself solely to the study and imitation of *Titian's* Works, those of *Tintoret*, and *Paul Veronese*; and his Proficiency therein got him deservedly the surname of the *Modern Titian*. He did several Pieces for the *Venetian Noblemen*, wherein he took for his Subject divers places of the *Metamorphoses*; but one of these Gentlemen having ill paid him for his Work, after he had employ'd him a very long time to paint his Palace in the Country, a fancy took him of returning to *France*. In his Journy through *Turin*, he was stopt by the Duke of *Savoy*, who caus'd him to Draw seven or eight Pieces Of the *Loves of Venus and Adonis*. These Pieces are now at *Paris*, having

198 *Illustrious Men of France,*

been carry'd off in the Remains of the *Palais des Favorites.*

From *Turin* he came to *Lyon*, where *H. le Blanc* receiv'd him again with a great deal of Joy and Friendship. There, he painted for him and several *Curiosos* of that City, divers Pictures, mostly Women Naked, and Stories out of the *Metamorphosis*. The sprightliness of his Pencil was marvellous for Carnation, and the lively expression of the Natural Complexion. In short, after five Years travel and stay at *Rome*, he return'd to *Paris*; but before he parted from his Friend, he must needs Draw his Picture, to leave it with him, and so did the other by him reciprocally, that he might carry with him this mark of his Esteem and Friendship.

He painted at *Paris* a great Hall for Monsieur *Morin*, (a famous Florist) where he made four great *Tableaux*, representing the Feasts of *Bacchus*. These may be rank'd amongst his finest Pieces. He made two for Mons. *Goulas*, one of *Jupiter* visiting *Semele*, the other, *A Venus fretting whilst Ceres and Bacchus desert her*. He painted for Monsieur *de Monloron* his Chapel *la Chevrette*, where he hath represented *The History of the Virgin* in several Pieces all round the Chapel. He hath also painted the Gallery of M. *Bullion's* House, where he hath represented the twelve Months of the Year. This Work was worth him a Pension of 1200 Livres, which was paid him to his death. The Gallery of President *Perrault's* House upon the Key *Mal-aquest*, is also of his hand.

*After*

After all these Works, He did that fine Piece of the *Descent of the Holy Ghost*, which is at *Notre Dame*. The Oeconomy of it is singularly Beautiful ; but more especially the Light is so lively and so well spread on all sides, that nothing comes nearer to the Idea of this Divine Mystery. Madam *la Duchesse d'Aiguillon* has offer'd 10000 Livres for it, engaging herself to furnish Messieurs de *Notre Dame* with a Copy of it, to be done by what Painter they'll chuse. He did for one of his Friends several Pieces, for which he was bid the same Sum ; but this Friend would not part with 'em ; whether he believ'd they were worth more, or whether he was willing to shew his estimation of the Works and Liberalities of his Friend.

He died at 38 Years of Age, leaving a Son and two Daughters. The Daughters died a short time after they were marry'd ; and the Son, who is a Painter of the Academy Royal, follows very close the traces of his Father. The Cut which is before this Elogium, is graved from his Picture, done by himself, five or six Years before his death.

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## *CLAUDE MELAN,* Graver.

THE Person I'm going to speak of, had two great Advantages beyond most of his Profession, tho' very able Men too.

The first is, That he not only had the Gift of Graving (with much Grace and Elegance) the most beautiful Paintngs of the best Masters; but he was also the Author and Workman of most of the Designs he graved: So that he is to be look'd upon both as a skilful Graver, and as a great Designer. We may add, As a Painter also; for he has painted several Pieces after a very good manner, and of a most beautiful Disposition.

The second Advantage, yet greater than the first, is, That he invented (himself) the admirable manner of Graving, which he used in most of his Works. Ordinary Gravers have almost as many different Hatchings as they have different Objects to represent. They have one for the Flesh, whether of the Face, or the Hands, or other parts of the Body; Another they use for the Drapery; and a third for the representation of the Earth, Water, Air, Fire; and even in each of these Objects they vary their Hatching and the handling their Graver in several different Fashions. *Melan* imitated

imitated all things with single Strokes set one by another, without ever crossing 'em in any wise ; contenting himself to make 'em either stronger or weaker, according to what was requisite to the Parts, the Colours, the Lights, and the Shades of the thing he represented.

He hath carry'd this Graving to such a perfection, that 'tis not possible to add any thing to it ; and not one of those who have follow'd him, has attempted to go farther in this sort of Work. Not but that he knew how to practise after the common manner of other Gravers. He has done a great many Cuts with *double* Strokes, which are wonderfully Fine, and very Valuable ; but he apply'd himself more to that which is *single* ; and 'tis by this he has most distinguish'd himself. Among his Works, which are very numerous, there is one which seems to me to merit more admiration than all the rest. It is a Christ's Head, design'd and shaded with his Crown of Thorns, and the Blood which gushes forth from all Parts, by one single Stroke, which beginning at the tip of the Nose, and so still circling on, forms most exactly every thing that is represented in this Plate, only by the different thickness of the Stroke, which, according as 'tis more or less swelling, makes the Eyes, Nose, Mouth, Cheeks, Hair, Blood and Thorns ; the whole so well represented, and with such expressions of Pain and Affliction, that nothing is more dolorous nor touching. The Collection of his Works contain an infinite number of very Curious Pieces. He was chosen to represent the Antique Figures and the Bustes of his Majesty's Closet. His Hand succeeded perfectly in these sort of things,

things; which being all of one Colour, do exactly accommodate with his Uniform manner of Graving, which not intersecting at all, preserves a Whiteness very suitable to the Marble it represents.

He had also this in particular, That the things he graved had more Fire, more Life, and more Freedom, than even the Draught that he imitated; (contrary to what happens to all other Gravers, whose Works are always less lively and less animated than the Design or the Picture that they Copy) Which could proceed only from the delight he took in his Work, and the extream Facility he had in carrying his Graver in what manner he pleas'd. He had Apartments in the Galleries of the *Louvre*, which were granted purely to his Merit.

He died there the 9th of September 1688, aged 94 Years. He is bury'd in the Church of St. Germain l'Auxerrois.

**FRANCIS**

## *FRANCIS CHAUVEAU,* Designer and Graver.

AS it is a most burthensome thing, and yet common enough, to meet with Men, who with a very moderate share of Merit, have an extraordinary Opinion of themselves; so it is very agreeable, and at the same time very rare, to find a great deal of *Modesty* join'd with much *Merit*.

The Person whose Elogium I make, is of the number of the latter. And 'tis incredible how much these two good Qualities set off one another. No body, perhaps, ever had an *Imagination* more fruitful for inventing and disposing Arguments for Pictures; Every thing *therein* was happy for the Beauty of the Representation; Every thing *therein* was ingenious for the satisfaction of the Mind; and there enter'd into his Designs even more of *Poetry* than *Painting*.

This may be verify'd in the almost infinite number of Works he has left us, and particularly in the *Cuts* which represent what is contain'd in the Books where they are. There is none of 'em but explains admirably the Author's Thought, and oftentimes enriches it agreeably and judiciously, by the addition of

of certain Poetical Circumstances. He was not only the Inventor of most of the Things he grav'd; but a world of Painters apply'd themselves to him secretly, to get from him Designs for Pictures, of which, they afterwards Had the Honour.

When any Work was propos'd to him, he used to take a Slate, upon which he Drew the Thought They hinted to him, in as many different Fashions as they wish'd, till such time as *they* were content, or *he himself* satisfy'd; for *they* were often so, when *he* was not.

He began to Grave under the Direction of *Laurence la Hire*, a skilful Painter, whose Works he grav'd, and from whence he took a fine and agreeable manner; but the activity of his Fancy, not agreeing with the slowness of the Graving-tool, He set himself to Etch in *Aqua-fortis*, and never more to do any thing but meer Thoughts of his own, which hath caus'd him to produce an infinite number of Works of all sorts of Characters. It has been argu'd, "There was something wanting to "the Beauty of his Designs, occasion'd by his "having never been in *Italy*, where he might "have taken a certain Taste, which (they say) "does not exist any where else. But this Thought is nothing but pure prejudice of the *Curioso's*, who scarce know any thing but the Names and Countries of Painters, and judge only by that of the Beauty of their Works.

The Man we speak of, is one of the greatest proofs of this. Few Men have possess'd more than

than he did this very Taste they talk of, and which they believe is not seen in him, because they know he never was at Rome.

'Tis true, his Graving has not the Grace nor the Softness of several other Gravers, who have carry'd that Nicety to the utmost point of perfection; But for the Fire, the strength of Expression, the Variety, and the Spirit that appear in his Pieces, I don't know whether there ever was One who surpass'd him.

A little before his death, he began to Grave the History of St. Bruno, painted at *Chartreux* by *le Sueur*. He has done the Designs of it, but has only Graved part; it were to be wish'd he had graved 'em all.

He had begun a Course of Subjects out of the Greek and Roman History, which was to compose a considerable Work. He also Painted very agreeably; so that he may be look'd upon as the Possessor of the Talents of three different Professions; That of Painter, That of Graver, and That of Designer. He had a great many Painters beneath him; He had Etchers in *Aquafortis*, that were equal to him; But, for the abundance, the variety, and ingenious turn of Design, few have surpass'd him: And 'tis particularly upon this score we consider'd him, when we gave him a place in this Volume. He died in the Year

1674.

One of his Sons, a most excellent Sculptor, is pass'd into *Sweden*, where he not only does most admirable things with his own

Hand;

**206 Illustrions Men of France,**  
Hand; but furnishes Designs to several other  
very able Sculptors.

He inherits of his Father that happy Ferti-  
lity, which can never be too much commended,  
and which raises so gloriously *Some Men* above  
*Others.*

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**ROBERT**

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## *ROBERT NANTEUIL,* Designer and Graver.

**R**obert Nanteuil was born at *Rheims* in 1630. His Father, a Tradesman of that City, tho' very Indigent, took great care of his Education, and gave him all his Studies. He had from his Infancy so strong an inclination for Drawing, and follow'd it so happily, that towards the two Years end of his Philosophy, he Design'd and Grav'd (himself) the Theses he maintain'd. He did all these things with so much success, that it is not to be imagin'd what Honour he receiv'd from the whole Town. But as these Talents, tho' very Excellent, were of no great advantage in his Native Country, and being also marry'd very Young, they furnish'd not wherewithal to defray the Charges of his Family, he resolv'd to seek a better Fortune. In pursuit whereof, he left his Wife, and came to *Paris*; where being at a loss how to make himself known, he be-thought himself of this Stratagem.

Seeing several young Abbots at the Gate of an Inn near the *Sorbonne*, he ask'd the Mistress of the House, If a certain Clergyman of *Rheims* did not lodge there; and that he had unluckily forgot his Name, but that she might know him by a Picture he had, Of him. In saying so, he shew'd her a Picture well drawn,

drawn, and which had all the Air of being very like.

The Abbots who had heard him, and cast their Eyes upon the Picture, were so charm'd with it, that they could not give over admiring it, and strove who should praise it most. *If you please, Gentlemen;* (says he to 'em) *I will do your Pictures for a small matter, as well as this.* The Price he ask'd was so moderate, that they all Sate to him one after another; and bringing their Friends, they came in such numbers he could not suffice 'em all. This made him advance his Price: So that having in a little time pick'd up a considerable Sum in that Inn, he return'd to *Rheims* to find his Wife; to whom he told his Adventure, and shew'd her the Mony he had gotten.

They immediately sold what they had at *Rheims*, and came and settled at *Paris*, where in a little time his Merit was known to every body. He gave himself particularly to making Portraits in *Pastel*, and to grave 'em afterwards to serve for *Theses*; wherein he succeeded beyond all those who till then had meddled with it. He never fail'd to catch the Likeness; and he boasted that he had made to himself most assur'd Rules for doing it.

He did the King's Portrait in *Pastel*, for which his Majesty gave him 100 *Louis d'ors*; then he Grav'd it as big as the Life, which had not been attempted, with success, by any Graver. His Majesty was so well satisfy'd with it, that he created for him a Place of Designer and Graver of his Closet, with a Salary of 1000 *Livres*, and caus'd very honourable Patents to be drawn for him. Till then

then it was almost impossible for the most skilful Gravers well to represent, only with the White of the Paper and the Black of the Ink, all the other Colours necessary to a Portrait in Great ; for when it is in Little, the Imagination of him who looks upon it easily supplies 'em ; yet, in the Piece I speak of, a Man would believe he saw the natural colour of the Complexion, the Vermillion of the Cheeks, and the Red of the Lips ; whereas in Portraits of that same bigness, made by most others, the Complexion appears leaden, Cheeks livid, and Lips violet ; so that one would rather take 'em for Drowned Men, than Living. This Portrait is, perhaps, the finest Work of that sort that ever was made. He Grav'd afterwards in the same manner the Portrait of the Queen-Mother ; That of Cardinal Mazarine, who retain'd him also for his Designer and Graver ; That of the Duke of Orleance, That of M. de Turenne, and of some Others ; Which have got him a Reputation that will never end. It is after this manner Carlo Dati speaks of the Works of Nanteuil in the Life of Zeuxis.

" These Words of *Apollonius* (says he) call me  
" to contemplate with astonishment the Art-  
" fulness of the Plates of our modern Gra-  
" vers, wherein all things are so naturally Re-  
" presented ; the quality of the Stuffs, the co-  
" lour of the Flesh, the Beard, the Hair, and  
" that light Powdér which is used on it ; and  
" (what is more important) the Age, the Air,  
" and the lively Resemblance of the Person ;  
" tho' there is nothing else employ'd therein  
" but the Black of the *Ink*, and the White of  
" the *Paper*, which make not only the Lights

" and Shades, but do the Office of all the  
" Colours. All this is seen and admir'd in the  
" excellent Portraits of the illustrious *Nan-*  
" *teuil*, more than in any other Work what-  
" ever.

The Great Duke would have his Portrait in *Crayon* done by himself to be put in his Gallery, where he took a pleasure to assemble the Portraits of illustrious Painters and Gravers, particularly when they were of their own proper Hand. It would be too tedious to report here all his Works: And as it is easie to find the entire Collection of 'em with the Curious, who are not satisfy'd till they have recover'd them all, I shall content my self to say, That it consists of above 240 Plates; wherein almost all Persons of the greatest Quality in the Government are Represented after a most Noble and Natural manner. This Collection of Portraits, surpasses by much all others, both in the *Number* and *Beauty* of the Prints.

As soon as the Profits of his Labour had set him a little before-hand with the World, the first thing he thought of was to send for his Father, that *he* might partake of the Good Fortune he enjoy'd. The good Man came, and ill Clad as he was, his Son receiv'd him at his lighting from the Coach, spruce and well dress'd, as a Man much at his Ease, with all imaginable tokens of Tenderness and Joy, which perfectly drew Tears from those that were Witnesses of it. From that moment, his greatest pleasure was to give his Father all the satisfaction he could desire; which he continu'd, to the Day when God took him from between his Arms.

Arms. This Piety was not only Rewarded in this World by the solid satisfaction of having crown'd with Joy the Person to whom he ow'd his Life, and by the Esteem he acquir'd thereby of a good and generous Disposition ; but by the singular Favours which God granted him towards the end of his Days, in giving him the most Christian Sentiments it was possible to have. He was naturally Eloquent and Lively in every thing he spoke, but when God had visited him, nothing was ever more *Pathetic* than his Expressions upon the *Love of God*, and other subjects of Devotion. He also made very agreeable Verses, and recited 'em admirably well.

He died at Paris the 18th of December 1678.  
aged 48 Years.

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## PETER MIGNARD, Chief Painter to the King.

Peter Mignard was born at *Troyes* in *Champagne*, in November 1610. His Father spent the greatest part of his Life in War, where he receiv'd several Wounds, which oblig'd him at length to quit the Service. He had two Sons ; the Eldest having taken to Painting, He design'd the Youngest (the Person I'm going to speak of) for *Physic*. The young one had so strong an Inclination for the Profession of his Brother, and so much Genius for this fine Art, that when he used to accompany the Physician who was made choice of to instruct him, he minded nothing but Drawing the Postures of the Patients, and those that tended them. He painted (even then) the Physician's Wife, her Children, and a Domestic, in the same Piece, with such resemblance, and after so good a manner, (tho' he was not more than 12 Years old) that the best Masters might not have been ashame'd to own it.

This first Essay, which shew'd the Great Man He was to be afterwards, determin'd his Father to let him follow a Profession for which Nature had given him so happy a Disposition. The progress he made therein was so considerable for the time, that the *Mareschal de Vitry* having seen the Works of this young Painter,

Painter, who was not above fifteen Years old, begg'd him of his Father, to paint his Chapel de Coubert, where all those that saw it were struck with the Fineness of his Fancy. The Mareschal charm'd with his Vivacity, carry'd him to Paris, and put him under the conduct of M. Vouet, chief Painter to the King, a Man at that time of great Reputation. He presently made it his study to imitate his Master, and did it so perfectly, that it was not possible to distinguish their Works. But the excellence of his Genius soon discovering to him every thing that was weak in *Vouet's* Works, and having seen the Pictures that Mareschal Crequi brought from Italy, he form'd the design of going to Rome; where he arriv'd, in the Pontificate of Urban VIII.

His first application was to quit the Manner of *Vouet*. He sought after the best Models in *Antiques*, and in the Pieces of *Raphael* and *Titian*. The good taste he took in this Study, set his Paintings in so great a Reputation, that they soon spread themselves in *Sicily*, in *Catalonia*, and *Spain*. The *Italians* themselves, naturally jealous of Strangers, and fill'd with the Merit of their Painters, could not forbear doing him justice.

From *Rome* he went to *Venice*, and was load'd with Honours and Presents by all the Princes thro' whose Territories he pass'd. At *Venice* he apply'd himself particularly to the Study of Colouring, which he Master'd entirely. He afterwards staid at *Rome* for twenty two Years together; during which, he painted Pope *Urban VIII.* *Innocent X.* and *Alex. VII.* All the Cardinals and Great Lords, were fond of

Sitting to him. He continu'd his Work with great success, when Cardinal *Mazarine* sent him orders from the King and the Queen-Mother, to return to *France*; where he has painted the King ten times, and all the Royal Family very often.

The principal Works he did after his return into *France*, are the Dome of *Val de Grace*, which is the greatest piece of Fresco-Painting in all *Europe*. He also painted in *Fresco* the Chapel des Fonds, St. *Eustache*, a Cieling in the *Arsenal*, and another at the Hotel de *Languerville*, representing an *Aurora*. He hath also painted at *Versailles*, the little Gallery of the King, and a great Closet in the Apartments of *Monseigneur*. But his Master-piece is the Gallery and the Great Hall of St. *Cloud*, which he compleated in less than four Years. There appears in these Works so fine an Oeconomy, so much Strength, and so much Grace, that the Critics (who have been in *Italy*) find therein, as Cardinal *Ranucci* presently observ'd, all the Beauty of the Paintings of the *Caraccio's*, *Guido* and *Domenichino*.

The King, to honour his Merit, gave him Letters of Nobility in 1687. and M. *le Brun*, chief Painter to the King, dying in 1690. his Majesty gave him the Offices of his Chief Painter, of Director and Chancellor of his Academy Royal of Painting and Sculpture, and Director of the Manufactures of the *Gobelins*.

At the time he fell sick of the Distemper whereof he died, He was finishing a Piece of *St. Luke*, where he painted Himself holding a Palette and Pencils; There is also a small piece of Carpet, which he left imperfect. Four Months

Months before, He had finish'd a St. Matthew. 'Tis seen in these two last Pieces, made for the King, that Age diminish'd nothing of the Correctness of his Style, nor of the Strength and Sprightliness of his Pencil, tho' He was at that time very aged. He died the 30th of May 1695. 85 Years old.

He was extreamly Graceful in his Designs, Noble and Easie in the Postures he gave his Figures, and very Agreeable in the Glowingness of his Colours. He painted equally well in Great and in Little; which rarely happens in the Best Masters. He hath given to Sculptors several Designs of Figures, and particularly of several \* *Termini* that are seen at *Versailles*, and which were wrought under his Direction.

He was very Laborious, and would often say, That he look'd upon *Idle Men*, as *Dead*. Yet he could not suffice the eagerness of Persons of Condition, who desir'd to have their Portraits, Of his Hand. His good Qualities were not confin'd to the Talent of his Profession; His Wit, his good Humour, and the agreeableness of his Conversation, made him a great many Friends, who were always very Cordial to him. His Friendship was secure, regular, tender and solid. Probity and Uprightness were natural to him. In a word, the Men of Honour found as many Charms in his Conversa-

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\* *Termes*; in French. A sort of Statue which has only a Head or half a Body, and which ends in the form of a square Pillar, serving for a Bounder or Limit. The Romans held, that there was a particular Divinity presiding over Landmarks, whom they call'd *Deus Terminus*.

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tion, as the Men of Skill found in his Works. As he was continually employ'd for 73 Years, he died considerably Rich.

He left four Children, three Sons and a Daughter, for whom he had a singular Tenderness, which was ever reciprocal. She marry'd the Count *de Feuquiere*. It has been observ'd, that when he was to represent either the *Virtues* or *Goddeses*, he oftentimes painted them under the Visage and Shape of his Daughter: But as she is a Person of exquisite Beauty, we ought not to think it strange, that he made use of Her to embellish his Works.

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3 A M E S

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## JAMES CALOT, Graver.

James Calot was of Lorraine, and born at Nancy in the Year 1594. His Parents, who were Noble, never design'd him for Graving, but he was so given (by Inclination) to Draw every thing he saw, that, to have the entire liberty of it, and not to be diverted from it by those who had authority over him, He stole from his Father's House in his very Infancy, and went to Rome, to improve himself in the Art he had embrac'd. There, he was Disciple to one *Fulius le Parisien*, a skilful Painter; who seeing him too much inclin'd to draw *Grotesques*, (wherein he took great delight) oblig'd him to copy the best Works of the most excellent Masters, to form his taste to good things. In 1612. He went to Florence, (not 18 Years old) where the first Plate he grav'd was an *Ecce Homo*, with Verses underneath, which are thought to be of his own making.

He grav'd several Designs of his Master *Fulius le Parisien*, but not comparable to those of his own Invention, and which he gave in the Year 1616. The same Figures which are there graved with all their *Shades*, are also graved (oppositely) with the single Stroke, the better to shew the *Justness* of the Design, and likewise to assist young Students in distinguishing

guishing the Strokes which make the *Out-lines* of the Figure from those which serve only to shade it, and to give it a rising and a roundness.

*Cosmo II.* Great Duke of *Tuscany*, for whom he wrought, and who lov'd him very much, being dead, he was invited by the Pope to come to *Rome*, and by the Emperor to go to *Vienna*; but he chose rather to come into *France*, where he has done an infinite number of most beautiful Works.

He grav'd at *Paris* two Prospects of that Great City: The one, where the City is seen from the place near which the *Pont-Royal* is lately built, and from whence is seen the *Louvre*, the *Pont-neuf*, and the whole City, with the River. There, in a great number of all sorts of Vessels, are beheld an infinity of Figures, which seem to be all in motion: And the other, where the City is view'd from the *Pont-neuf*, and represents the same *Louvre*, *la Tour de Nesle*, the *Gate de la Conference*, and the *Lantdschape* beyond, with every thing that passes upon the River. They are two Master-pieces; whether for the Perspective, which is admirably well observ'd; or for the truth of the Objects, or the diversity and naturalness of the Figures.

He also grav'd (being in *France*) Three very memorable Sieges; That of *St. Martin de Ré*, That of *Breda*, and That of *Rochelle*. The Figures in the Fore-part and next at hand, are of a size considerable enough; and in the Deepnings behind, they are almost imperceptibly small, and yet as distinguishable, as if but 15 or 20 Paces off.

The

The *Miseries of War*, represented in 10 or 12 Plates, are one of his finest Works. He has therein express'd, with a wonderful Naturalness, every thing that can be imagin'd touching the Mischiefs suffer'd from Soldiers, or which they themselves suffer in time of War. It is surprizing, that the Imagination of a single Man could figure to it self so many things, so different, and all under Images so Just. He has made Prints of all the Saints, and of all the Mysteries contain'd in the Calendar. He has done the same by most of the Coins in Europe. He has represented an infinite number of very agreeable Grotesques.

I shall not undertake to report All his Works; 'twere better that the Reader would give himself the pleasure to see the Collection of 'em; which, tho' very valuable, is no difficult thing to obtain, because of a Punctilio among the Curioso's, Of having the entire Collection of his Works. This point of Honour is so extraordinary, and, we may say, so fantastical too, that one of his Prints, call'd *The Wag*, (which is the least of all, and whereof he broke the Plate, after some few had been drawn off, because it did not please him) is Sold for twenty times more than the rest, purely to be able to boast of having All.

*Calot* was admirable in many things; but he was particularly so in doing Figures in Little, and in giving, with two or three Strokes of the Graver, the Action, the Gate, the Intention, and even the Humour and particular Character of each Figure. He had also a singular Dexterity to introduce an infinite number of things in a small compass; and, if we may so say,

The

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The Gift of *Creating Space*; for in an Inch of Extent, he would shew distinctly 5 or 6 Leagues of Landtschape, with an inconceivable multitude of Persons.

There hath not been before him a Graver of a like Talent; and except the excellent M. *le Clerc*, who comes after him, (without being behind him) there has not been One since, who has approach'd him.

*Gaston*, Duke of *Orleans*, lov'd him extreamly, and took a singular delight in causing him to Work in his presence.

He died at *Nancy* the 23d of *March 1635*. aged 41 Years. His Wife, nam'd *Margaret Passinger*, rais'd him a Magnificent Tomb.

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CLAUDE

## CLAUDE BALLIN, Working-Goldsmit.

Claude Ballin, Goldsmith, born at Paris, and the Son of a Goldsmith, has carry'd the beauty of his Art to a degree of Perfection, which no body before him hath, perhaps, ever reach'd ; at least, there are few things remaining to us, either of the *Ancients* or *Moderns*, that can be compar'd to his Works. He had an exquisite Discernment, to take what was Finest of *Antiques* ; and a wonderful Genius, in adding (of his own Invention) a thousand Graces and Beauties which were never seen before. He began with the study of *Design*, by copying at his Father's, the fine Paintings of *Poussin*, and by exercising himself in the Academies, held in those Days by several private Men, at their own Houses : For at that time, *The Academy Royal of Painting and Sculpture*, and the Royal Manufacture of *Gobelins*, were not establish'd.

He wrought at the same upon divers things in his own Craft, wherein he so improv'd himself, that at the Age of Nineteen, he made four Silver Basons of sixty \* *Marc*s each, representing the Four Ages of the World.

|     |   |
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| 60  | * Forty pound Weight English.<br>A <i>Marc</i> in France is a Weight of 8 Ounces,               |
| 8   |   |
| —   | or two thirds of a Pound ; as our English <i>Marc</i> (13 s. 4 d.) is two thirds of a Pound, or |
| 480 |   |
| 12  | 20 s.   |
| 40  |   |

Which

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Which being Subjects, of themselves productive of very beautiful Ideas, and as He knew how to set 'em in their fairest Light, These Basons are look'd upon as so many Master-pieces, and were so mightily lik'd, that they were Gilt some time after. Cardinal Richelieu having bought 'em, *Ballin* made four Ewers à l'Antique, of the same Design with the Basons, to go along with them, and to make the Furniture compleat.

*Sarasin*, an excellent Sculptor of those times, amaz'd at the Capacity of a Man so Young as *Ballin* then was, caus'd him to Carve several Bas-reliefs of Silver; and amongst the rest, the Story of Pharaoh's Dreams, which are of a singular Elegance.

He made of Gold Enamel'd, the first Sword and Gorget the King wore; And the Head of St. Remy, which his Majesty gave to the Church of Rheims, at the Ceremony of his Coronation. There are seen in several Churches of Paris, as also at St. Denis and Poin-toise, Pieces of his Hand; all of a Beauty and an Elegance, which will, perhaps, never be equal'd.

He made a Gold Mirror of 40 Marcs for Queen *Ann of Austria*, which is in the King's Hands. It were to be wish'd, that so many other Works he did for the King, by order of M. Colbert, Superintendent of the Buildings, were still in Being. There were Tables of so wonderful a Sculpture, that the Material (all massy Silver as it was) hardly made the tenth part of their Value. There were great Stands eight or nine Foot high, to bear Flambeaux or branch'd Candlesticks; Great Vases for

for Orange-Trees, and great Carriages for the Cisterns, the Candlesticks, Looking-glasses, &c. All of 'em Works, which for their Magnificence, Elegance, and good Manner, were, perhaps, one of the things of the Kingdom which gave a more just Idea of the Grandeur of the Prince who caus'd them to be made. They have been melted down to furnish the Expences of the War. We have thereby lost one of the Greatest Ornaments of our Age, and an eternal Monument of the Nation's Glory, and which might have been set against the most Polite Antiquity, and all succeeding Time. But the King was willing to sacrifice to the Public Good, these Marks of his Magnificence, and to dispose his Subjects (by so singular an Example) chearfully to do the like, by their finest Moveables in Plate. Happy is it, That the Sieur *de Launay* (who treads in the Steps of the Sieur *Ballin*, whose Niece he marry'd) has Drawn most of these fine Works, before they were melted: And as 'tis hop'd he'll cause 'em to be Grav'd, 'twill be some consolation to the Curious upon so vast a loss for the Noble Arts.

There are also remaining in the Hands of private Men, some small Pieces of his Work, by which may be judg'd the Beauty of those that are no more.

His Majesty, after the death of the Sieur *Varin*, gave him the Direction of the Dies for Medals, &c. which he exercis'd till his death.

I ought

224 *Illustrious Men of France,*

I ought to observe, That the Person (whose Elogium I make) was hardly ever out of *Paris*; which demonstrates how greatly *They* are mistaken, who believe, that None can excell in the Beauteous Arts, but those who have pass'd some Years in *Italy*.

He died the 22d of *January 1678.* aged 63 Years.



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F I N I S.

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